



CENSUS OF INDIA, 1981
A PORTRAIT OF POPULATION
LAKSHADWEEP

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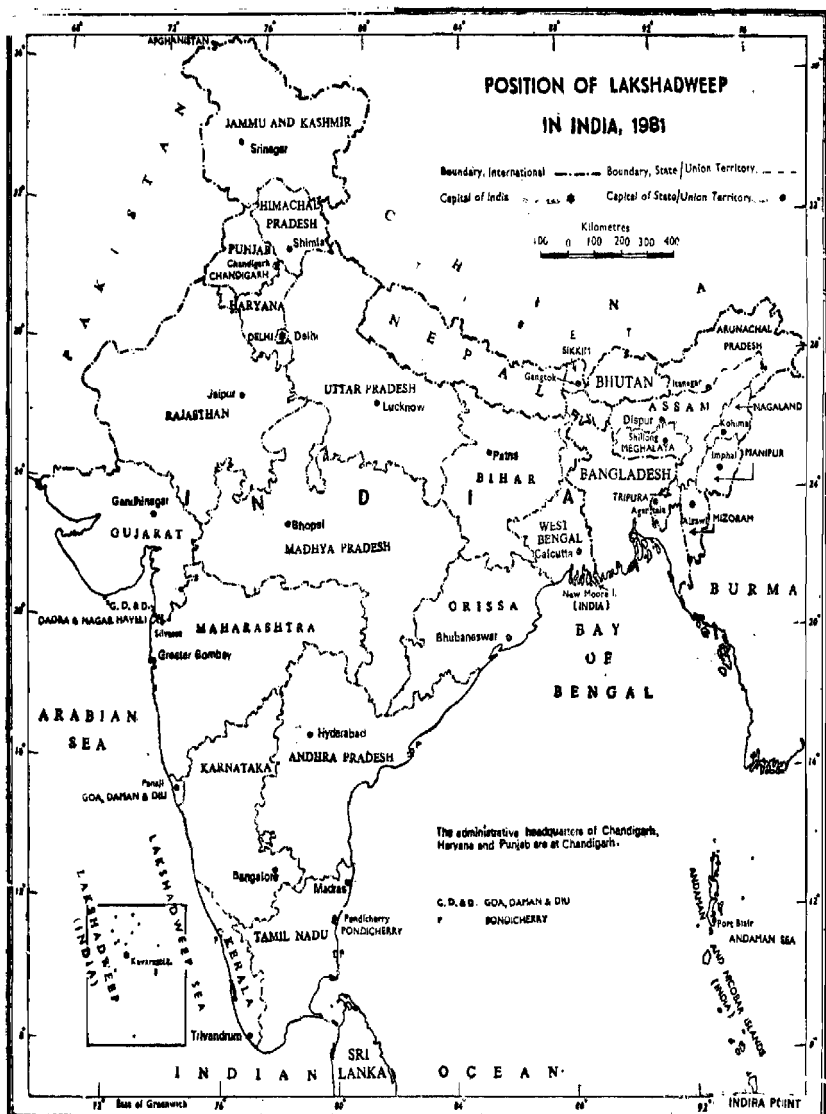
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DIRECTORATE OF CENSUS OPERATIONS,
LAKSHADWEEP



Based upon Survey of India map with the permission of the Surveyor General of India.

The boundary of Nagaland shown on this map is as interpreted from the Map-Source Acre (Nagaland) Aug. 1971, but has yet to be notified.

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This territorial waters of India extend into the sea to a depth of twelve nautical miles measured from the appropriate base line.

FOREWORD

The Indian Census is now more than hundred years of age. Synchronous decennial Censuses have been taken in an unbroken sequence since 1871.

Each Census has been yielding vast quantities of data concerning the various facets of the life of the people. It is only natural that over the decades the sweep as well as the depth of the information yielded by Census have gone on increasing. Of course, no exercise of this type and magnitude, can yield all that one may desire to know in all areas of enquiry. Within this limitation, however, the data thrown up by the Census constitute, verily, a mine of information which enter into plans and programmes, debates and writings, affecting almost all walks of the life of the common Indian.

And yet, for the common reader, this information and the large number of publications carrying it, remains, by and large, a distant, uninteresting, even intimidating corpus.

At the time of the 1971 Census was, therefore, conceived the idea of bringing the essential Census information together in handy and readable volumes with such lay and average readers and students in view. This 1981 Census series of State/UT-wise "Portrait of Population" follows up the similar 1971 Census series.

It will be realized that it is not easy to convert dry facts and statistics into flowing narration. Very few indeed can be gifted with the talent of a Jawaharlal Nehru or a C. Rajagopalachari or a Hendrikvan Loon or a Minoo Masani for writing

(ii)

about history or mythology or economics in an absorbing story-telling style. It has also to be appreciated that my colleagues have undertaken this work in the midst of a very mundane and busy office routine.

I thank them and all those who have collaborated with them in this project and hope that these volumes will serve their intended purpose. The credit for getting the 1981 Census conducted and for getting all the data garnered and put through the initial processing in the first instance goes, of course, to my illustrious predecessor, Shri P. Padmanabha and the very able band of Directors of Census Operations for that Census.

VIJAY S. VERMA,
Registrar General, India.

New Delhi
July 4, 1988

PREFACE

The Indian Census collects and processes a huge quantity of information, not all of which becomes available to the general readers. "A Portrait of Population" is an attempt to place some of this information on a schematic basis before the general reader in lay terms. In Lakshadweep such information is likely to be of use to students, to the people who would like to know more about their own islands and most of all to planners who now under the guidance of the Island Development Authority are engaged in preparing plans which stem from the environment of the islands rather than from models prepared elsewhere.

It was the late Shri A. Chandra Sekhar, Registrar General & Census Commissioner of 1971 Census who first mooted the idea of bringing out "Portrait of Population" for each State/Union Territory at the time of the 1971 Census. Encouraged by the response of general readers to that publication it has been decided by Shri V. S. Verma, the current Registrar General, India to revive this publication at the 1981 Census also.

The Director of Census Operations, Shri P. M. Nair, I.A.S., under whose guidance the entire operations were carried out deserves all credit for this successful outcome. But he had to leave the Organisation for another assignment before the volume in question could be readied for the press. I must record my deepest sense of gratitude to Shri P. Padmanabha, Ex-Registrar General, India and Shri V. S. Verma, Registrar General, India for their valuable guidance and sincere help to us at every stage. I also thank the officers and staff of the Data Processing Division, Census Division and Printing Division of the Office of the Registrar General, India

who were associated with this task. The processing of the data was undertaken by the Data Processing Division of the Registrar General's office under the able guidance of S/Shri A. Sen Gupta, Joint Director (Data Processing), K. R. Unni, Joint Director (Programming) with the help of their staff.

I thank Shri N. Rama Rao, Deputy Registrar General (C&T) and his colleagues S/Shri R. P. Tomar and V.P. Rustagi, Deputy Directors, A.K.N. Menon, Research Officer and Babu Lal, Assistant Director who have taken great pains to go through the draft and suggested various changes in the write up.

My thanks are also due to Shri P. V. James, Assistant Director of Census Operations who has laboured hard on this publication. Shri K. P. Damodaran, Head Assistant has contributed his best in preparing the write-up. The tables and statements contained in this publication were prepared by Smt. K. Sarasamma Pillai, Computer and checked by Shri A. V. Ouseph, Investigator. The charts, diagrams, maps etc., were prepared by S/Shri T. Trinadh and G. Mariyanna, Draughtsmen of Andhra Pradesh Census Directorate. The cover page was designed by Shri N. Venu Nair, Draughtsman of Kerala Census Directorate with the Photograph supplied by Lakshadweep Administration. The typing of the manuscript and the tables was undertaken by Smt. M. Kunjumole, L. D. Clerk. I express my deep gratitude to all of them and to many others in my office who gave me unstinted co-operation in this venture.

WAJAHAT HABIBULLAH,

Administrator & Ex-officio Director of
Census Operations.

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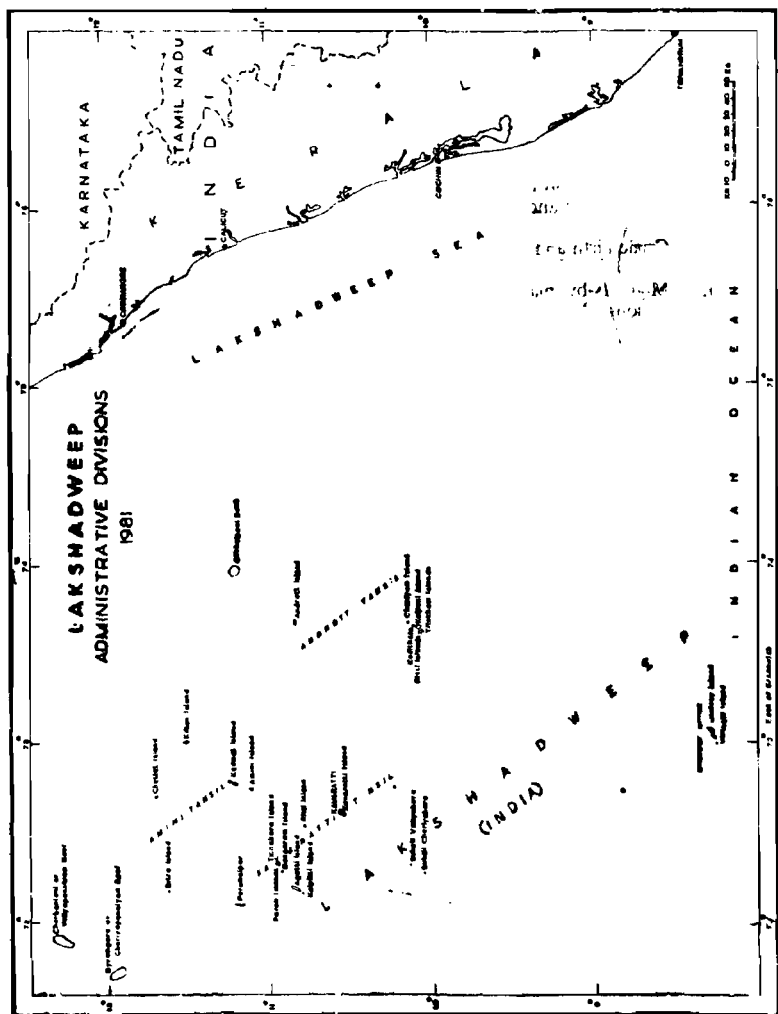
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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The exquisitely beautiful coralline islands, 27 in number including ten inhabited and twelve uninhabited islands and five attached islets with their wide and vast lagoons harbouring a rich and colourful flora and fauna constitute the Union Territory of Lakshadweep. There are also a number of sunken banks, open reefs and sand banks in this Union Territory. They lie scattered in the Arabian sea about 200 to 400 kilometres off the Kerala Coast between 8° and 12°—30' north latitude and between 71° and 74° east longitude. The total area of these islands is only 32 sq. kilometres. In both area and population, Lakshadweep is the smallest among the States and Union Territories in India.

All the islands are coconut gardens. There are no forests and therefore no wild animals or poisonous reptiles in the islands.

All the islands lie generally from north to south except Andrott which lies east to west. The islands are long and narrow and are thickly populated in the widest part. They are identical in structure and formation. They rise not more than nine metres above the sea level and their coral reefs encircle the lagoons of varied sizes, some measuring more than 9.6 kms. across, others some metres across. The lagoons are on the western side of the islands. They are saucer shaped and are 3.6 to 5.4 metres of depth.

Kavaratti island, perhaps the most centrally situated island of the group is now the headquarters of this Union Territory. Minicoy is the southernmost island and Chetlat the northernmost. Agatti is the most westerly of the Lakshadweep group of islands. Among the inhabited islands, Andrott having an area of 4.8 sq. kms. is the biggest and Bitra with an area of 0.1 sq. km. is the smallest.

The surface communication between the islands and mainland is maintained by the two ships operated from mainland ports of Cochin, Calicut and Mangalore. The table below shows the distance between the various islands and mainland ports of Cochin, Mangalore and Calicut.

Table I.1

Distance between islands and islands to mainland ports (in kms)

COCHIN

500	Mangalore
254 246	Calicut
293 257 228	Andrott
407 287 320 107	Amini
407 287 320 119 11	Kadmat
483 333 383 183 80 72	Bitra
432 269 330 141 65 54 56	Chetlat
394 252 296 102 59 48 89 37	Kiltan
459 363 383 157 61 72 80 104 111	Agatti
404 352 346 119 65 76 124 126 115 57	Kavaratti
287 361 263 87 150 159 228 206 176 178 124	Kalpeni
398 537 444 293 311 330 376 378 346 296 252 211	Minicoy

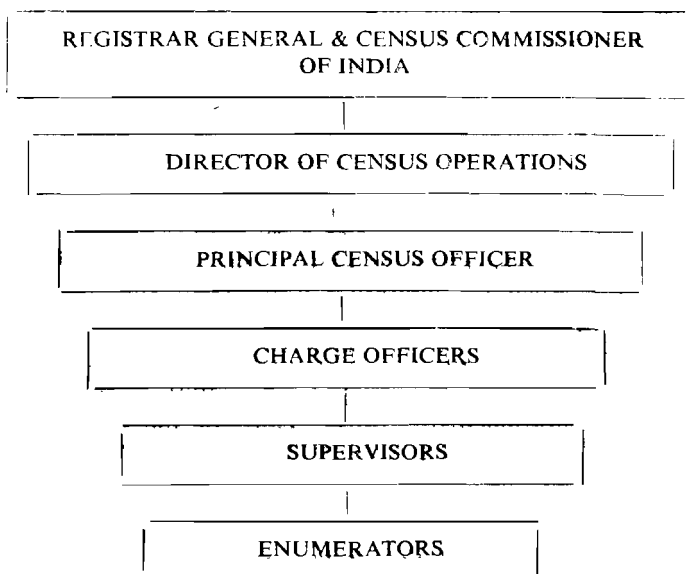
The Union Territory of Lakshadweep earlier known as Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi islands were part of defunct Malabar and South Kanara Districts of erstwhile Madras State. These islands were constituted into a Union Territory in 1956 with the reorganisation of States. Though the decennial population Census of India was conducted in these islands in earlier periods also, the data relating to these islands were included in the respective districts of South Kanara and Malabar to which they belonged. The first Census after the constitution of these islands into a Union Territory was conducted in 1961 and the 1981 Census was the third in the series in respect of this Union Territory.

The modern population Census is a highly complex operation which covers not only the count of human population but also collects various other related data on the living activities, economic composition of the labour force, social and demographic aspects, the unemployment situation etc. Besides economic and social planning, the population data are necessary for political and administrative purposes. There are indeed unlimited uses of population Census.

For the conduct of the Census, the President of India appoints the Director of Census Operations for each State and Union Territory. The State Government notifies the Principal Census Officers at the District level and Charge Officers at the Tahsil/Taluk level. The officers of the State Government having jurisdiction over the appropriate levels of the District or Tahsil as the case may be are thus appointed. In Lakshadweep,

the Administrator of the Union Territory is the ex-officio Director of Census Operations. For the conduct of the 1981 Census Operations, the Secretary (Administration) was appointed as Principal Census Officer and the Deputy Collector, Minicoy and Tahsildars of Kavaratti, Amini and Andrott as the Charge Officers. For this massive operation, most of the enumerators and supervisors required were selected from the teachers. A charge was divided into blocks of about 120 households or 650 persons and an enumerator was appointed for each block and a supervisor for a group of 2 to 3 blocks.

ORGANISATION CHART



As a prelude to the 1981 Census, the Houselisting operations which consist of numbering of buildings and houses located in the territory, preparation of layout sketch of buildings and canvassing of houselists were carried out in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep from 10th March, 1980 and ended on 30th March, 1980. These operations had facilitated securing the identity of every likely habitation; final demarcation of enumeration blocks and supervisor's circles and assessment of personnel requirements for actual count of population; estimation of likely population of 1981; assessment of the number of schedules and forms required for the actual census count; and providing a frame for other investigations.

The twelfth decennial population Census of India was thus conducted in this Union Territory during February-March, 1981 along with the rest of the country. The enumeration commenced on 9th February and ended on 28th February, 1981. The sunrise of first March, 1981 was the reference date for this Census. A revisional round was also carried out from first to fifth March, 1981 during which the enumerators visited once again every household and brought the population upto-date. The floating and houseless population were also enumerated on the last date of enumeration period.

Lakshadweep is a single District Union Territory. The District is further divided into four Tahsils comprised of the following islands and islets.

- (i) Minicoy and attached islet—Minicoy Tahsil
- (ii) Andrott, Kalpeni and attached islets—Andrott Tahsil
- (iii) Kavaratti, Agatti and attached islets—Kavaratti Tahsil
- (iv) Amini, Kadmat, Kiltan, Cheilat and Bitra—Amini Tahsil

The entire area was treated as rural for the purpose of 1971 Census. Though the characteristics of the islands continued to be the same, when the uniform test for classifying rural and urban areas put forward by the Registrar General, India was applied in this Union Territory also as in other States and Union Territories, Kavaratti, Minicoy and Amini islands came under the category of Census Towns during the 1981 Census and are treated as Non-Municipal Towns. Thus for the first time, the population of Lakshadweep was divided into two categories viz., rural and urban.

The Portrait of Population, a popular version of the Census Reports is aimed at placing before the public the important results of 1981 Census in Lakshadweep. Thus the common man need not wade through the different voluminous Census Reports; instead we have made efforts to present the basic characteristics of the island population in a simple and easily intelligible manner in this volume. For more details on different aspects, the reader can go through our different volumes which are to be released according to the publication programme of 1981 Census.

Census of India 1981—Publication Programme, Lakshadweep

1. Part I*—Administration Report
2. Part II A & B*—General Population Tables and Primary Census Abstract.

3. Part III A & B and Part IV-A* — General Economic Tables and Social and Cultural Tables.
4. Part IV-B — Mother tongue and bilingualism
5. Part V A & B* — Migration Tables
6. Part VI A & B* — Fertility Tables
7. Part VII* — Tables on Houses and Disabled Population
8. Part VIII A & B* — Household Tables
9. Part IX* — Special Tables on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
10. Part X-A* — Town Directory
(included in District Census Handbook)
11. Part X-B@ — Survey Reports on selected Towns—Kavaratti Town
12. Part X-C — Survey Reports on selected Villages—Chetlat Village
13. Part X-D@ — Reports on selected crafts—Odiam making
14. Part XII@ — Census Atlas
15. Part XIII A & B* — District Census Handbook

*Published @Under print

CHAPTER II

HOW MANY ARE WE? HOW ARE WE DISTRIBUTED AND BY HOW MUCH ARE OUR MEMBERS GROWING?

India, occupies a unique position in the global map. Next to China, ours is the most populous country in the world. According to the 1981 Census, 685,184,692 people live in our country and it comes to more than 15 per cent of the total population of the world. Between 1971 and 1981 more than 137 million have been added to our population. This is much more than the entire population of Japan which is only 117 million. The rate of increase of population in India during the period 1971-81 is worked out as 25 per cent. During the decade 1961-71 it was 24.80 per cent. It will be interesting to go through the population figures of some of the countries in the world at this juncture, which are given below:—

Table II.1

Area and population of the countries in the world

Sl. No.	Country	year	Population as per latest Census	Surface Area Estimates (Km ²) as in 1983
1	2	3	4	5
1.	India	1981	685,184,692	3,287,263
2.	Bangladesh	1981	87,052,024	143,998
3.	China	1982	1,031,882,511	9,596,961
4.	Japan	1980	117,060,396	372,313
5.	Pakistan	1981	83,782,075	803,943
6.	Sri Lanka	1981	14,848,364	65,610
7.	United Kingdom	1981	55,671,000	244,046
8.	U.S.A.	1980	226,545,805	9,372,614
9.	U.S.S.R.	1979	262,436,227	22,402,200

The population of the world at selected years is also given below for general information.

Table II.2

Population of the world 1950-1980

Year	Estimated mid year world population (millions)
1	2
1950	2504
1960	3014
1970	3683
1980	4453

The 685,184,692 people in India are sheltered in an area stretching 3,287,263 sq. kilometres divided into 22 States and 9 Union Territories according to 1981 Census. Among the States, Madhya Pradesh is the largest in area (443,446 sq. kms) and Uttar Pradesh is the largest in population (110,862,013). The Andaman and Nicobar islands near the eastern coast in Bay of Bengal and the Lakshadweep islands near the western coast in the Arabian sea are the two Island Union Territories in our country. The tiny dots here and there in the Arabian sea shown in the map of India represents Lakshadweep. As the smallest Union Territory in India, Lakshadweep is having an area of 32 sq. kms. and a population of 40,249. In respect of area and population, this Union Territory has no comparison with any of the other States and Union Territories in India.

The table below gives the population of different States and Union Territories in India as per 1981 Census. For easy identification they have been ranked in respect of population and compared with that of 1971 Census figures.

Table II.3

Rank-wise distribution of population during 1981 and 1971 in States and Union Territories

Name of State/ Union Territory	Population in 1981	Rank	Population in 1971	Rank
1	2	3	4	5
INDIA	685,184,692		548,159,652	
Uttar Pradesh	110,862,013	1	88,341,144	1
Bihar	69,914,734	2	56,353,369	2

Table II.3--Contd.

1	2	3	4	5
Maharashtra	62,784,171	3	50,412,235	3
West Bengal	54,580,647	4	44,312,011	4
Andhra Pradesh	53,549,673	5	43,502,708	5
Madhya Pradesh	52,178,844	6	41,654,119	6
Tamil Nadu	48,408,077	7	41,199,168	7
Karnataka	37,135,714	8	29,299,014	8
Rajasthan	34,261,862	9	25,765,806	10
Gujarat	34,085,799	10	26,697,475	9
Orissa	26,370,271	11	21,944,615	11
Kerala	25,453,680	12	21,347,375	12
Assam	*19,896,843	13	14,957,542	13
Punjab	16,788,915	14	13,551,060	14
Haryana	12,922,618	15	10,036,808	15
Delhi	6,220,406	16	4,065,698	17
Jammu & Kashmir	5,987,389	17	4,616,632	16
Himachal Pradesh	4,280,818	18	3,460,434	18
Tripura	2,053,058	19	1,556,332	19
Manipur	1,420,953	20	1,072,753	20
Meghalaya	1,335,819	21	1,011,699	21
Goa, Daman & Diu	1,086,730	22	857,771	22
Nagaland	774,930	23	516,449	23
Arunachal Pradesh	631,839	24	467,511	25
Pondicherry	604,471	25	471,707	24
Mizoram	493,757	26	..	..
Chandigarh	451,610	27	257,251	26
Sikkim	316,385	28	209,843	27
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	188,741	29	115,133	28
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	103,676	30	74,170	29
Lakshadweep	40,249	31	31,810	30

*Projected figure for 1981.

Rajasthan, Delhi and Arunachal Pradesh have improved their ranks in respect of population from 10 to 9, 17 to 16 and 25 to 24 respectively in 1981. Gujarat held the 9th, Jammu and Kashmir the 16th and Pondicherry the 24th in 1971 Census were pushed down in rank by the States listed above. All other States and Union Territories kept up their positions as in 1971 during 1981 Census also.

Out of the 22 islands and 5 attached islets in Lakshadweep only ten are inhabited. The islands were said to have occupied by the people at different stages. In Bitra, the smallest island some families from the other islands were settled during the early period of this century at the instance of the rulers. Though during the 1911 Census this island was found occupied, it remained uninhabited during 1921 and 1931 census periods. Thus, there were only nine inhabited islands during that period. The table below gives the number of inhabited islands in the form of time series.

Table II.4

Number of inhabited islands, 1901-1981

Year	1981	1971	1961	1951	1941	1931	1921	1911	1901
No. of inhabited islands	10	10	10	10	10	9	9	10	9

The population of this Union Territory is now distributed in ten inhabited islands of varying sizes from 0.1 sq. km. to 4.8 sq. kms. The islands of Minicoy, Kavaratti and Amini are census towns and therefore, 18,629 people living in these islands are treated as urban population. The remaining 21,620 are living in the seven rural islands. There are no cities, statutory towns or standard urban area in this Union Territory. The following table shows the Union Territory, District, Tahsil and Island-wise figures of area and population.

Table II.5

Area and Population in the Union Territory, District, Tahsils and Islands

Union Territory/District/ Tahsil/Island	Total Rural Urban	Area in Sq.kms.	Population		
			Total	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6
LAKSHADWEEP	T	32.0	40,249	20,377	19,872
	R	21.4	21,620	10,887	10,733
	U	10.6	18,629	9,490	9,139
Lakshadweep District	T	32.0	40,249	20,377	19,872
	R	21.4	21,620	10,887	10,733
	U	10.6	18,629	9,490	9,139

Table II.5—Contd.

1	2	3	4	5	6
I Minicoy Tahsil . . .	T	4.4	6,658	3,091	3,567
	R	N	..	..	..
	U	4.4	6,658	3,091	3,567
Minicoy Island . . .	U	4.37	6,658	3,091	3,567
II Andrott Tahsil . . .	T	7.6*	10,355	5,149	5,206
	R	7.6	10,355	5,149	5,206
	U	..	..	..	..
Kalpeni Island . . .	R	2.3	3,543	1,838	1,705
Andrott Island . . .	R	4.8	6,812	3,311	3,501
III Kavaratti Tahsil . . .	T	8.1*	10,715	5,759	4,956
	R	4.5	4,111	2,136	1,975
	U	3.6	6,604	3,623	2,981
Agatti Island . . .	R	2.7	4,111	2,136	1,975
Kavaratti Island . . .	U	3.63	6,604	3,623	2,981
IV Amini Tahsil . . .	T	8.4	12,521	6,378	6,143
	R	5.8	7,154	3,602	3,552
	U	2.6	5,367	2,776	2,591
Amini Island . . .	U	2.59	5,367	2,776	2,591
Kadmat Island . . .	R	3.1	3,114	1,578	1,536
Kiltan . . .	R	1.6	2,375	1,189	1,186
Chetlat . . .	R	1.0	1,484	734	750
Bitra . . .	R	0.1	181	101	80

*Uninhabited islands are not presented. Hence, the total of area of inhabited islands will not tally with the area of the Tahsil.

N—Negligible; £—Lakshadweep is a single district Union Territory.

As per the 1971 Census, the population of Lakshadweep was 31,810. The entire area was treated as rural and hence, there was no urban population. Compared to the figure of 1971 Census, there has been a rise of 26.53 per cent in the population of Lakshadweep during the decade 1971—1981. This is slightly above the all-India figure of 25 per cent. Compared to the neighbouring State of Kerala which has marked only 19.24 per cent

growth during the decade the increase in Lakshadweep is indeed on the high side. During the decade 1961-71, we had, of course, observed an all the time spurt in the growth of population i.e. 31.95 per cent, but this was attributed to the shifting of head-quarters of the territory from mainland (Calicut) to Kavaratti which brought in its wake a large number of people from mainland to the islands. Induction of more people and their families by way of labour etc., to cope up with the increased tempo of developmental activities also resulted in the increased percentage of growth of population during that decade.

For administrative convenience, all the islands in Lakshadweep are grouped together and treated as one District. Hence there is only one District in the Territory. The average population and size of the district will therefore be the same as that of the Union Territory as a whole, i.e., 40,249. For general information, the average size and population of a district in the various States and Union Territories are given below :—

Table II.6

Average size and Population of a district in various States and Union Territories, 1981

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	Average size of district (area) km ²	Average population of a district
1	2	3	4
States			
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11,959.48	2,328,247
2.	Assam	NA	NA
3.	Bihar	5,608.94	2,255,314
4.	Gujarat	10,317.05	1,793,989
5.	Haryana	3,684.33	1,076,885
6.	Himachal Pradesh	4,639.42	356,735
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	15,874.00	427,671
8.	Karnataka	10,094.26	1,954,511
9.	Kerala	3,238.58	2,121,140
10.	Madhya Pradesh	9,854.36	1,159,530
11.	Maharashtra	11,834.23	2,414,776
12.	Manipur	3,721.17	236,826
13.	Meghalaya	4,485.80	267,164
14.	Nagaland	2,368.43	110,704

Table II.6—Contd.

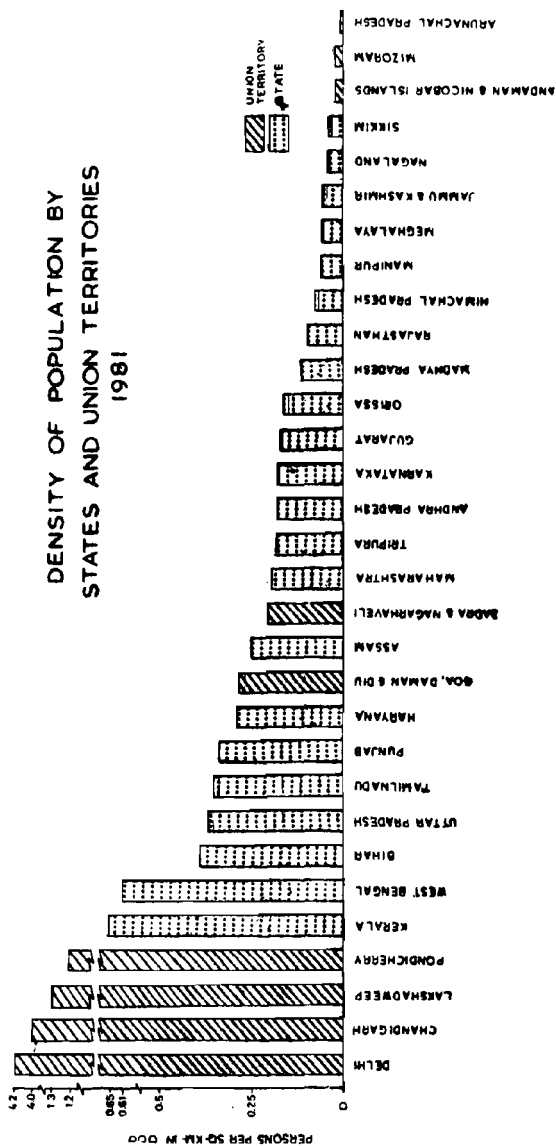
1	2	3	4
15. Orissa		11,977.46	2,028,482
16. Punjab		4,196.83	1,399,076
17. Rajasthan		13,163.04	1,317,764
18. Sikkim		1,774.00	79,096
19. Tamil Nadu		8,128.63	3,025,505
20. Tripura		3,495.33	684,353
21. Uttar Pradesh		5,257.34	1,979,679
22. West Bengal		5,547.00	3,411,290
Union Territories			
1. Andaman & Nicobar Islands		4,124.50	94,371
2. Arunachal Pradesh		9,304.78	70,204
3. Chandigarh		114.00	451,610
4. Dadra & Nagar Haveli		491.00	103,676
5. Delhi		1,483.00	6,220,406
6. Goa, Daman & Diu		1,271.33	362,243
7. Lakshadweep		32.00	40,249
8. Mizoram		7,027.00	164,586
9. Pondicherry		123.00	151,118

NA—Not available.

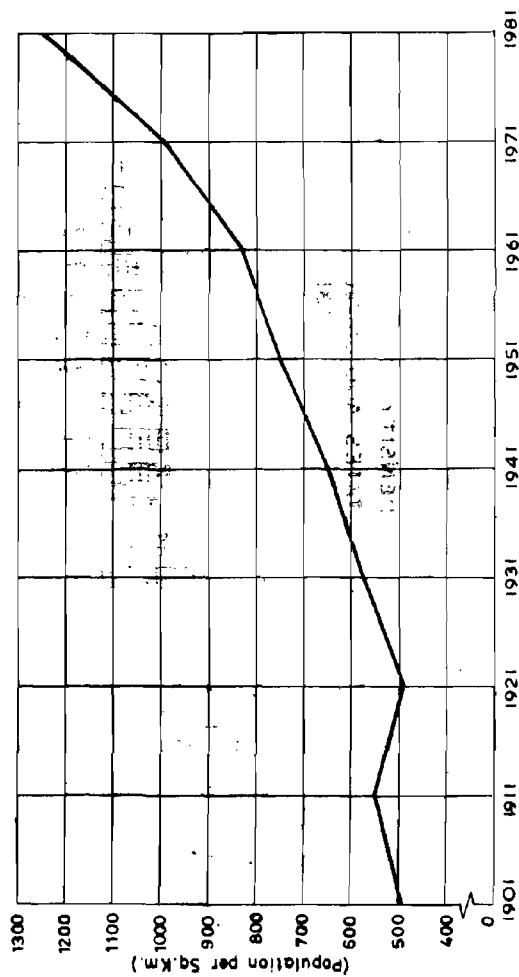
The largest district in respect of population in India is Twenty four Parganas in West Bengal State with 107 lakhs people and the least populated is Lakshadweep, with 0.4 lakh.

The man-land ratio of a particular place is called density of population of that place which is calculated by dividing the total population with the total area. The land-use area (including the un-inhabited islands and islets) being 28.5 sq. kms. only. Lakshadweep is having a man-land ratio of 1412 persons per sq. km. However, taking into account the geographical area of 32 sq. kms. it works out to 1258 persons per sq. km. It comes next below to Delhi and Chandigarh and stands third in all the States and Union Territories in the Indian Union. The density of population of India is only 216. The neighbouring State of Kerala, which is one of the thickly populated states in India, is having a density of population of 655 per sq. km. The Andaman and Nicobar islands lying on the other side of India is a low density Union Territory with only 23 persons per sq. km. Arunachal Pradesh is the least densely populated territory (8 persons per km²) perhaps due to its vast mountainous and snow bound areas. The area.

DENSITY OF POPULATION BY STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES 1981

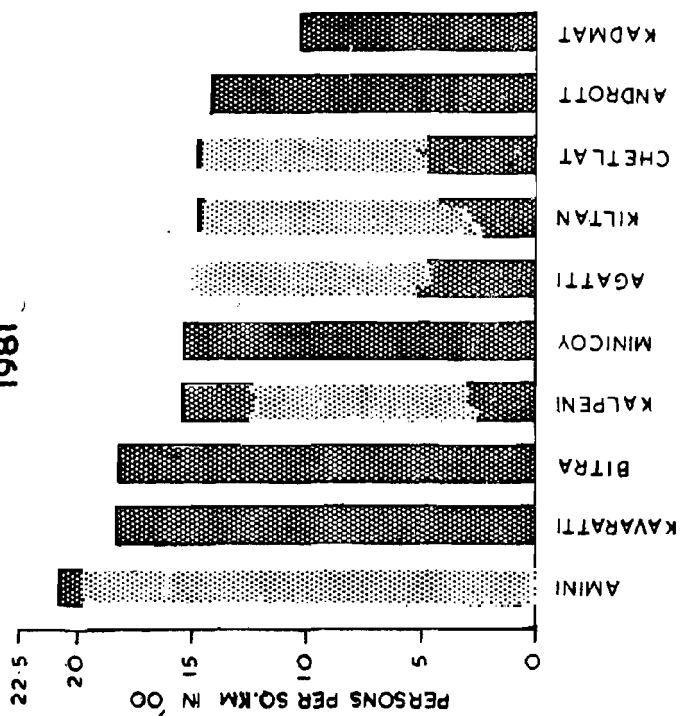


LAKSHADWEEP DENSITY OF POPULATION 1901-1981



DENSITY OF POPULATION IN ISLANDS

1981



population and density of population in India and various States and Union Territories are given below in the descending order of density.

Table II.7

Density of Population in India, States and Union Territories

Sl.No.	Name of State/Union Territory	Area in sq. km.	Population	Density of population
1	2	3	4	5
INDIA		3,287,263.0	685,184,692	216
1.	Delhi	1,483.0	6,220,406	4194
2.	Chandigarh	114.0	451,610	3961
3.	Lakshadweep	32.0	40,249	1258
4.	Pondicherry	492.0	604,471	1229
5.	Kerala	38,863.0	25,453,680	655
6.	West Bengal	88,752.0	54,580,647	615
7.	Bihar	173,877.0	69,914,734	402
8.	Uttar Pradesh	294,411.0	110,862,013	377
9.	Tamil Nadu	130,058.0	48,408,077	372
10.	Punjab	50,362.0	16,788,915	333
11.	Haryana	44,212.0	12,922,618	292
12.	Goa, Daman & Diu	3,814.0	1,086,730	285
13.	Assam	78,438.0	19,896,843 ^(a)	254
14.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	491.0	103,676	211
15.	Maharashtra	307,690.0	62,784,171	204
16.	Tripura	10,486.0	2,053,058	196
17.	Andhra Pradesh	275,068.0	53,549,673	195
18.	Karnataka	191,791.0	37,135,714	194
19.	Gujarat	196,024.0	34,085,799	174
20.	Orissa	155,707.0	26,370,271	169
21.	Madhya Pradesh	443,446.0	52,178,844	118
22.	Rajasthan	342,239.0	34,261,862	100
23.	Himachal Pradesh	55,673.0	4,280,818	77
24.	Manipur	22,327.0	1,420,953	64
25.	Meghalaya	22,429.0	1,335,819	60
26.	Jammu & Kashmir	222,236.0	5,987,389	59
27.	Nagaland	16,579.0	774,930	47
28.	Sikkim	7,096.0	316,385	45
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	8,249.0	188,741	23
30.	Mizoram	21,081.0	493,757	23
31.	Arunachal Pradesh	83,743.0	631,839	8

^(a) Projected population.

Normally, people concentrate at places which are industrial, large scale business and trade centres. The towns and cities where modern facilities for living are available and the places with good climatic conditions also, to some extent, attract people to settle down in certain areas. These physical features are not the basic factors for high density of population in Lakshadweep. Weather and climatic conditions here are more or less the same as those prevailing in the west-coast of India. Except for fish and coconuts, the islands have to depend on the mainland for all the essential commodities from staple food to kerosene. Still Lakshadweep maintains a high density of population and density has increased considerably from 994 in 1971 to 1258 in 1981. The table below gives the density of population in Lakshadweep from 1901 to 1981.

Table II.8

Density of Population in Lakshadweep, 1901-81

Year	1901	1911	1921	1931	1941	1951	1961	1971	1981
Density	498	552	489	571	659	755	831	994	1258

Nationally the density in our country has increased from 77 persons in 1901 to 216 persons in 1981. Taken into Rural/Urban density of 1981 population in Lakshadweep (previously the whole area was Rural) it is 1010 in Rural islands and 1759 in Urban islands. There is no difference in the characteristics between the rural islands and the urban islands and they are identical in nature in all respects. Therefore a clear picture of density gets only when the area of each inhabited island and its population is taken into account. The following table gives the area, population and density in respect of each tahsil and each inhabited island, rural and urban.

Table II.9

Area, Population and density in district, tahsils and islands, 1981

Name of District/Tahsil/Island		Total/ Rural/ Urban*	Area in sq.km.	Popula- tion	Density of popu- lation
1		2	3	4	5
LAKSHADWEEP DISTRICT	T		32.0	40,249	1,258
	R		21.4	21,620	1,010
	U		10.6	18,629	1,759
I Minicoy Tahsil	T		4.4	6,658	1,513
	R		N		
	U		4.4	6,658	1,524
Minicoy Island (NM)			4.37	6,658	1,524

Table II.9—Contd.

	1	2	3	4	5
II Andrott Tahsil	T	7.6@	10,355	1,363	
	R	7.6	10,355	1,363	
	U	..	..	..	
Kalpeni Island	R	2.3	3,543	1,540	
Andrott Island	R	4.8	6,812	1,419	
III Kavaratti Tahsil	T	8.1@	10,715	1,323\$	
	R	4.5	4,111	914	
	U	3.6	6,604	1,819	
Agatti Island	R	2.7	4,111	1,523	
Kavaratti Island (NM)	U	3.63	6,604	1,819	
IV Amini Tahsil	T	8.4	12,521	1,491	
	R	5.8	7,154	1,233	
	U	2.6	5,367	2,072	
Amini Island (NM)	U	2.59	5,367	2,072	
Kadmat Island	R	3.1	3,114	1,005	
Kiltan Island	R	1.6	2,375	1,484	
Chetlat Island	R	1.0	1,484	1,484	
Bitra Island	R	0.1	181	1,810	

* Islands are distinct units. Hence the entire island is either rural or urban.

@ Uninhabited islands are not presented. Hence the total area of inhabited islands will not tally with the area of the Tahsil.

\$ The area of uninhabited islands are considered in calculating the density.

Amini island (urban) having an area of 2.59 sq. kms. and a population of 5367 tops in respect of density and Kadmat (rural) comes to the last.

During the 1971 Census each inhabited island was taken as a village. In 1981 three islands viz., Minicoy, Kavaratti and Amini were treated as Census Towns. The remaining inhabited islands viz., Andrott, Kalpeni, Agatti, Kadmat, Kiltan, Chetlat and Bitra put together forms the village population in Lakshadweep which is 21,620 in number. The total area of both inhabited and uninhabited islands comes to 21.4 sq. kms. The average village population in Lakshadweep can, therefore, be said as 3089 persons.

Population explosion pose a serious threat to our country. Since the middle of the present century India's population has been increasing at a very high rate. The same trend is noticed in these far flung and isolated islands also. The following table presents the population and percentage of decadal variations of population in India and Lakshadweep from 1901 to 1981.

Table II.10

Percentage Decade Variation in Population of India and Lakshadweep, 1901 to 1981

Census year	India		Lakshadweep	
	Population	% decadal variation	Population	% decadal variation
1	2	3	4	5
1901	238,396,327	..	13,882	..
1911	252,093,390	+ 5.75	14,555	- 4.85
1921	251,321,213	-- 0.31	13,637	-- 6.31
1931	278,977,238	+ 11.00	16,040	+ 17.62
1941	318,660,580	+ 14.22	18,355	+ 14.43
1951	361,088,090	+ 13.31	21,035	+ 14.60
1961	439,234,771	+ 21.51	24,108	+ 14.61
1971	548,159,622	+ 24.80	31,810	+ 31.95
1981	685,184,692	+ 25.00	40,249	+ 26.53

The island-wise population with their ranks during the Censuses of 1951, 1961, 1971 and 1981 and the corresponding decadal variations during 1951-61, 1961-71 and 1971-81 are given below for an easy study of growth of population in each of these tiny islands.

Table II.11

Rankwise Distribution of Population and their percentage decadal variation of the islands, 1951 to 1981

Name of Union Territory/island	Population 1951	Rank	Population 1961	Rank	Population 1971	Rank
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Lakshadweep* . . .	21,035	..	24,108	..	31,810	..
Minicoy	3,804	1	4,139	2	5,342	2
Andrott	3,500	2	4,183	1	5,425	1

Table II. 11 --Contd.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Amini	. . .	3,159	3	3,530	3	4,542	3
Kavaratti	. . .	2,390	4	2,828	4	4,420	4
Kalpeni	. . .	2,269	5	2,613	5	3,152	6
Agatti	. . .	2,029	6	2,411	6	3,155	5
Kadmat	. . .	1,641	7	1,851	7	2,416	7
Kiltan	. . .	1,249	8	1,520	8	2,046	8
Chetlat	. . .	948	9	953	9	1,200	9
Bitra	. . .	46	10	80	10	112	10

Table II. 11—Contd.

Name of Union Territory/island	Popula- tion 1981	Rank	Percentage of decadal variations			
			1951- 61	1961- 71	1971- 81	1951- 1981
1	8	9	10	11	12	13
Lakshadweep*	40,249	..	14.61	31.95	26.53	91.34
Minicoy . . .	6,658	2	8.81	29.06	24.63	75.03
Andrott . . .	6,812	1	19.51	29.69	25.57	94.63
Amini . . .	5,367	4	11.74	28.67	18.16	69.90
Kavaratti . . .	6,604	3	18.33	56.29	49.41	176.32
Kalpeni . . .	3,543	6	15.16	20.63	12.40	56.15
Agatti . . .	4,111	5	18.83	30.86	30.30	102.61
Kadmat . . .	3,114	7	12.80	30.52	28.89	89.76
Kiltan . . .	2,375	8	21.70	34.61	16.08	90.15
Chetlat . . .	1,484	9	0.53	25.92	23.67	56.54
Bitra . . .	181	10	73.91	40.00	61.61	293.48

*Lakshadweep is a single district Union Territory.

During the present decade of 1971-81, the increase in population is slightly reduced in every island, except Bitra and in the Union Territory as a whole compared to that of the earlier decade 1961-71. Of course, in certain States/Union Territories, the growth rate of population is higher than that of Lakshadweep. In the

case of Nagaland, Sikkim, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Delhi etc. the hike is more than 50 per cent. As regards Chandigarh it has gone upto 75.55 per cent. It may, then, appear that in Lakshadweep the growth rate is nominal. But, the situation arising out of the environmental limitations etc. here are different from that of other States and Union Territories. The very structure of the tiny coral islands surrounded by high seas and the way in which it is peculiarly balanced by nature for survival itself is an interesting phenomenon. Nature's endowments in the islands in regard to even fresh water are limited since it is said that fresh water table is 10' below the surface and only limited quantity of water is available in each place. Any abnormal increase of population within the limited living area may result in serious consequences in the years to come. The reasons for the high growth of the population in Lakshadweep might be because of the drastic cut in both general mortality and infant mortality rates due to alround improvements in medical, sanitary and public health measures which brought under control or rather eliminated various killer diseases from the islands. The birth rate at the same time has not come down to the desired level. The Lakshadweep Administration have, however, very rightly emphasized the need for popularisation of family welfare schemes in the islands, the result of which will definitely be encouraging in the years to come.

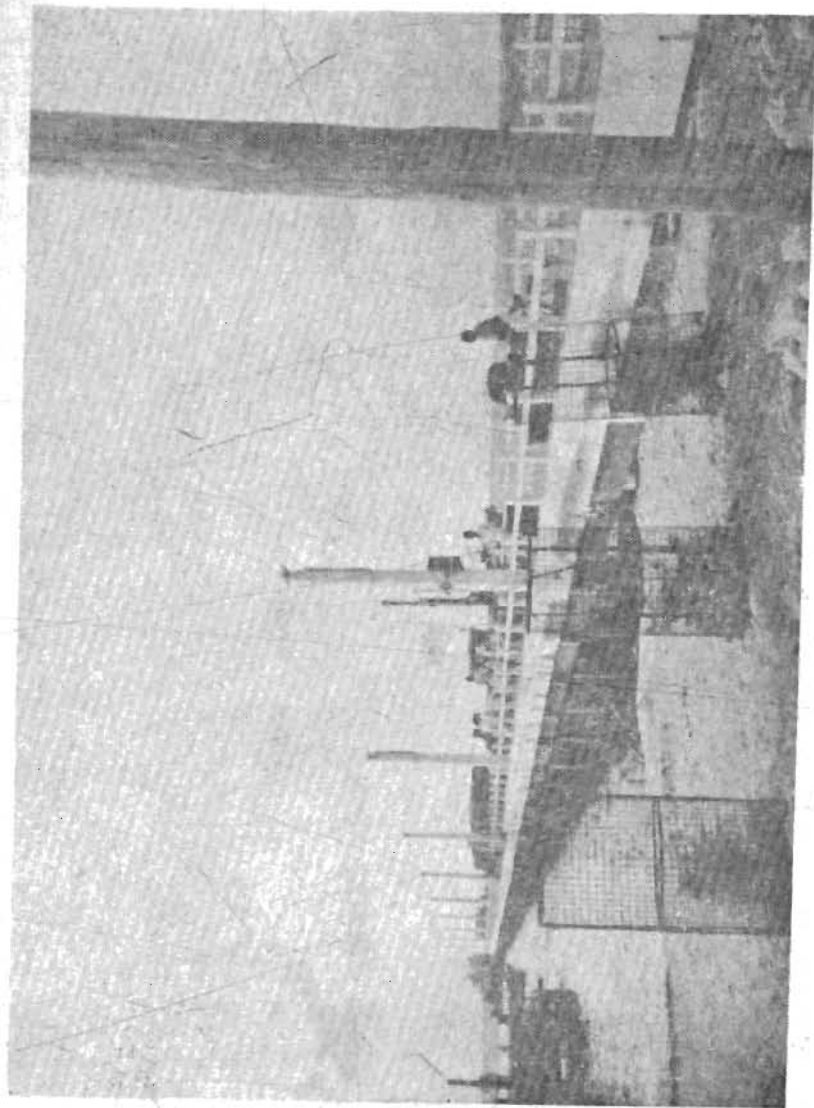


Plate 1—Kutchery Jetty, Kavaratti

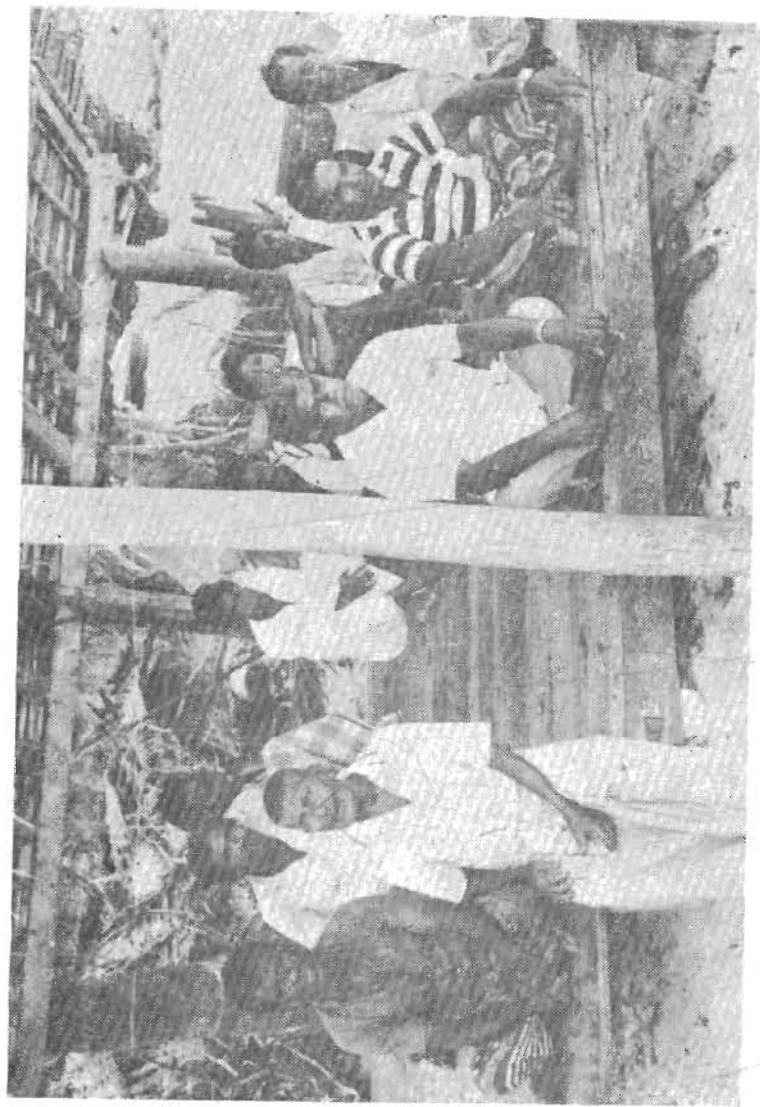


Plate 2—Village resting place, Minicoy—The wooden platform kept raised from the ground.

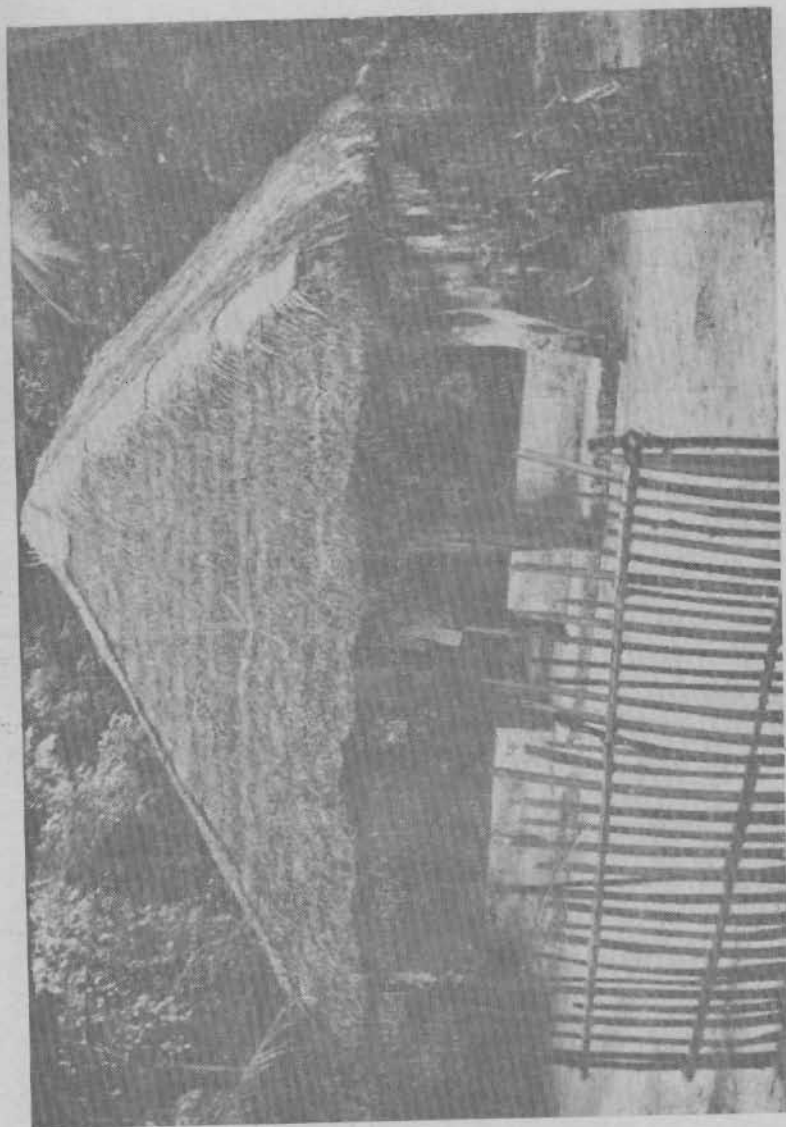


Plate 3—A typical thatched house with fencing of coconut leaf stalks



Plate 4—Guest House, Kavaratti



Plate 4—Guest House, Kavaratti



Plate 6—Kavaratti Island Co-operative Supply and Marketing Society



Plate 7—Happy children—Promise of future

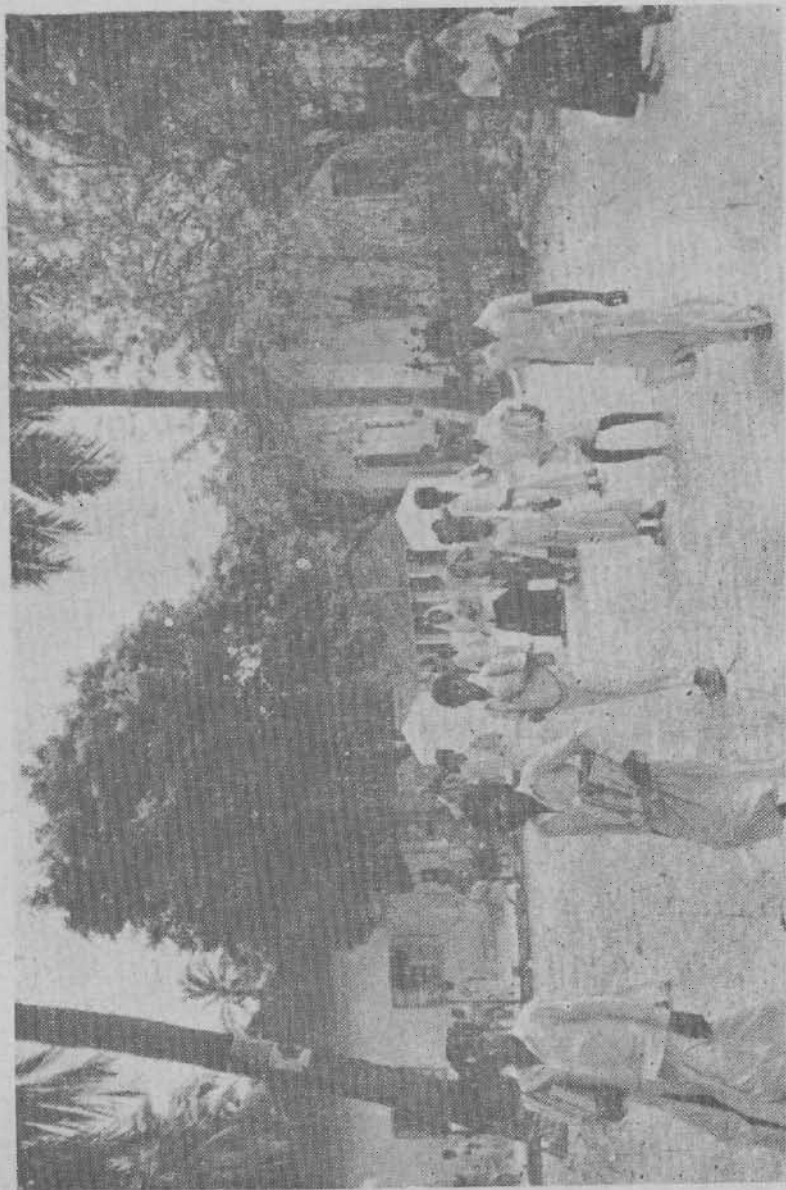
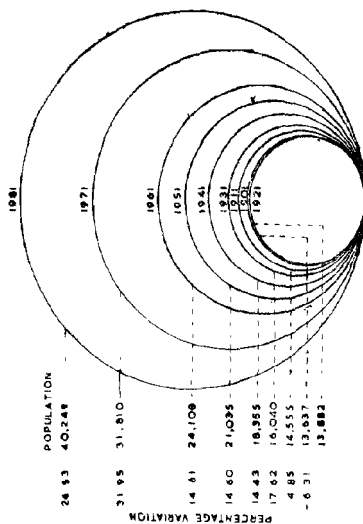


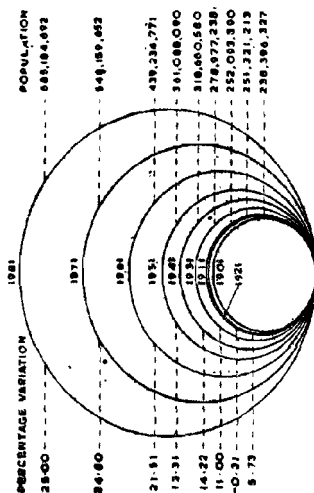
Plate 8—School children in front of Senior Basic School, Kavaratti

GROWTH OF POPULATION 1901-1981

LAKSHADWEEP



INDIA



NOTE - includes projected population of Assam.

CHAPTER III

VILLAGE DWELLERS AND TOWN DWELLERS

Village or Town is the recognised basic area of habitation. Small and scattered communities, mainly engaged in agriculture and allied activities and leading a simple but well ordered life form the villages. The towns are thickly populated and busy centres of trade and commerce. Generally in towns the basis of economy becomes non-agriculture and the people are engaged in more diversified occupations. Those in villages is the rural population and those in towns or cities, the urban population. As a matter of fact, urbanisation is considered a sign of progress and modern amenities of life and facilities for education, medical etc., will be available at increased level in towns. Since towns serve as nerve centres for industrial and commercial development and often will be the seat of the administrative machinery, employment opportunities will be more in towns and this results in large scale migration. The population in towns, therefore, will be ever increasing. The expansion of the existing urban areas and urbanisation of rural areas are thus caused. More than 75 per cent of the people in our country are living in rural areas and therefore, India is considered as a rural country. In the developed countries like U.K., U.S.A., Canada, Japan etc., the proportion of urban population to total population is, relatively high.

There is no single definition applicable to all the countries to classify rural and urban areas. The definition changes from time to time and also from country to country. The concentration of population in an area, however, is an accepted principle by all for distinguishing urban areas from rural areas.

To enable study of the people, their characteristics, relations to the society, economy, etc. it has been the practice to collect and compile data relating to rural and urban areas separately in every census. There was no uniform criteria for distinguishing the rural and urban areas applicable to all the States within our country till recently. During 1971 Census, however, a definition of 'urban' was adopted which was more or less followed in 1981 Census also with slight modification in one of the components. The criteria for the determination of urban units adopted in 1981 Census are:---

- (a) All places with a municipality, corporation or cantonment board or notified town area committee etc.;

- (b) all other places which satisfy the following criteria;
- (i) a minimum population of 5000.
 - (ii) at least 75% of the male working population engaged in non-agricultural and allied activities.
 - (iii) a population of at least 400 persons per sq. km. or 1000 per sq. mile.

In 1971 Census, the workers in occupation of fishing, live-stock, hunting, logging, plantations and orchards etc., (falling in Category III) were treated as coming under non-agricultural activities, whereas during 1981 Census these activities were treated as on par with agricultural activities for purposes of determining the 75 per cent male working population in criterion b (ii).

In India, according to 1981 Census, 525,457,335 people live in rural areas which forms 76.69 per cent of the total population. The urban population numbering 159,727,357 forms the remaining 23.31 percent. The growth rate in regard to urban population in India during 1971-81 was 46.24 per cent

The percentage of urban population varies from State to State. The most urbanised State is Maharashtra (35.03%) followed by Tamilnadu (32.95%). In 1971 Census also these States were occupying the same positions. The least urbanised States are Himachal Pradesh (7.61%) and Assam (10.29%). Union Territories of Delhi and Chandigarh kept the unique positions with high percentage of urban population. In these Union Territories more than 90 per cent are urban population. Arunachal Pradesh (6.56%) and Dadra and Nagar Haveli (6.67%) mark the Union Territories with very small proportion of urban population. However the Union Territory of Lakshadweep has more urban population (46.28%) than the highest ranking urban States. The percentage of urban population to total population in different States and Union Territories as per 1981 Census are given below:—

Table III.1
Proportion of Urban Population to total Population in India, States and Union Territories, 1981

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	Percentage of urban population to total population
1	2	3
INDIA	.	23.31
1. Andhra Pradesh	.	23.32
2. Assam	.	10.29
3. Bihar	.	12.47

Table III.1- *-Contd.*

1	2	3
4.	Gujarat	31.10
5.	Haryana	21.88
6.	Himachal Pradesh	7.61
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	21.05
8.	Karnataka	28.89
9.	Kerala	18.74
10.	Madhya Pradesh	20.29
11.	Maharashtra	35.03
12.	Manipur	26.42
13.	Meghalaya	18.07
14.	Nagaland	15.52
15.	Orissa	11.79
16.	Punjab	27.68
17.	Rajasthan	21.05
18.	Sikkim	16.15
19.	Tamilnadu	32.95
20.	Tripura	10.99
21.	Uttar Pradesh	17.95
22.	West Bengal	26.47
Union Territories		
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	26.30
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	6.56
3.	Chandigarh	93.63
4.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	6.67
5.	Delhi	92.73
6.	Goa, Daman & Diu	32.37
7.	Mizoram	24.67
8.	Pondicherry	52.28
9.	Lakshadweep	46.28

There are no municipalities, corporations, cantonment boards or notified town area committees in Lakshadweep. Coconut cultivation and Fishing are the main stay of the economy of the people here. In certain islands vegetable and banana are also grown in limited quantities. According to the 1981 Primary Census Abstract figures there are no Cultivators and Agricultural labourers in Lakshadweep population, giving it a unique position among all other States and Union Territories in our country.

With the new approach in distinguishing urban from rural, three of the islands viz., Minicoy, Amini and Kavaratti which are having the population of 5000 and above and have satisfied the other criteria laid down, were identified as Census Towns or urban areas. Due to the acute scarcity of land, the density of population in all the islands is very high. When a density of 400 persons per sq. kilometre is a criterion to include a place in the urban area, all the Islands in Lakshadweep have a density of more than 1000. Andrott island which is having a population of 6,812 and a high density is excluded from town because it does not satisfy the criterion that there should be "at least 75% of the male working population engaged in non-agricultural and allied activities". The remaining six inhabited islands having less than 5,000 people were also retained as villages or rural areas in 1981 Census.

According to 1981 Census, the rural population in Lakshadweep is 21,620. The distribution of population in the rural islands is as follows:—

Table III.2
Distribution of Population in the rural Islands, 1981

Sl. No.	Name of Island	Population
1	2	3
1.	Andrott	6812
2.	Kalpeni	3543
3.	Agatti	4111
4.	Kadmat	3114
5.	Kiltan	2375
6.	Chetlat	1484
7.	Bitra	181

The average size of the population in a village (rural island) therefore comes to 3,089. However the size of the population of each island varies from 181 to 6,812. Unlike the other parts of the country, the size of the population in villages or towns in Lakshadweep has little relation to the physical features and it is mainly depended on the topography of the island and the availability of land and living area. In Bitra, the smallest village with an area of 0.1 sq. km. has the population of 181 whereas the

largest island Andrott with an area of 4.8 sq. kms. has 6,812 persons. The table given below shows the rural islands by population size as per 1981 Census.

Table III.3

Rural Islands classified by Population size and percentage to rural population, 1981

Size of population	Name of Island	Percentage to rural population
1	2	3
Less than 200	Bitra	0.84
200- 499	..	..
500-1999	Chetlat	6.86
2000-4999	Agatti, Kalpeni, Kadmat and Kiltan	60.79
5000 & above	Andrott	31.51

The percentage of population living in the villages (rural islands) of various population size with reference to the total rural population of the Union Territory in 1981 reveals that in the range of 2000—4999 there are four Islands which constitute more than 60 percent of the rural population.

In 1971 Census there was no town in Lakshadweep. As mentioned elsewhere, under the new classification, Minicoy, Kavaratti and Amini were grouped as Census Towns for the first time in 1981. In these islands 18,629 (46.28 per cent of the total population) are living. The average size of the population in towns can, therefore be taken as 6,210. The actual population in these islands are:—

Minicoy	6,658
Kavaratti	6,604
Amini	5,367

Urbanisation in Lakshadweep has not followed the same pattern as in other States and Union Territories. Industrial and commercial developments lead to change of rural areas into urban areas in general, but the urban islands in Lakshadweep has little resemblance to the towns in other parts of the country. Industrial and commercial centres are totally absent in these islands. There are many natural factors which impose serious limitations

for developing these islands on par with the other urban units in the country. The isolation of the islands from the mainland, shortage of surface area, lack of fresh water required for industrial units etc., are some of the handicaps faced by these islands towards this end. There are no physical differences between a rural island and an urban island in Lakshadweep.

As far as Lakshadweep is concerned, there are no municipal towns, corporations, cities or townships with civil administration, but there are only three non-municipal or Census towns. There are also no urban agglomerations. These three towns come in the category of population size of 5000 to 9999. There are no standard urban areas also in Lakshadweep.

In 1981 there are 3,301 towns or urban centres in India out of which 758 are class V towns. The table given below shows the distribution of urban centres by size—classes as per 1981 Census.

Table III.4

Number of towns, population size class and percentage to urban population, 1981

INDIA				LAKSHADWEEP		
Size class of urban units	Population range	No. of towns*	Percentage to total urban population	No. of towns	Population	Percentage to total urban population
I	2	3	4	5	6	7
ALL CLASSES	All ranges	3,301	100.00	3	18,629	100.00
I	100,000 & above	218	60.46	..	..	..
II	50,000 to 99,999	270	11.54	..	..	..
III	20,000 to 49,999	743	14.30	..	..	..
IV	10,000 to 19,999	1,059	9.52	..	..	..
V	5,000 to 9,999	758	3.64	3	18,629	100.00
VI	Less than 5,000	253	0.54	..	..	..

*Excludes Assam

An urban agglomeration has been classified according to total population.

Though the three towns in Lakshadweep are class V towns, it has 46.28 percentage of urban population of the Union Territory. It is also a fact that Lakshadweep has the classification of urban area only in 1981. But, it has more urban population than West Bengal (26.47% urban), Maharashtra (35.03%) and Tamil Nadu (32.95%) which have the three metropolis of Calcutta, Bombay and Madras and a number of towns of different classes. In Indian Union, Lakshadweep is on the top in the case of proportion of urban population pushing down almost all the States and Union Territories. But, it comes only after Chandigarh (93.63%), Delhi (92.73%) and Pondicherry (52.28%). But, it is a matter of fact that the urban area in general could be picked out by the application of the criteria for determination of towns, but in case of Lakshadweep such criteria could select areas which have no allied characteristics of towns. Further, these are not statutory towns. The absence of agricultural operations in Lakshadweep has paved the way to include the three islands in the list of towns for the first time in 1981, which have only rural look like any other island in Lakshadweep.

CHAPTER IV

ARE THE NUMBER OF MEN AND WOMEN BALANCED?

When we speak about the population of a country, State or any other smaller unit like the number of students in a class room or the number of members in a family, a general question arises as to how many males and how many females there are. In the modern world, men and women keep equal status and it is not the superiority of any sex that prompts us to ask the above question. We know that men and women have their own roles and they together form a healthy society. Any serious imbalance in males and females will certainly cause social problems. Therefore, we always expect that the number of men and women are properly balanced at all times.

The proportion between the males and females in a population is known as sex ratio. In our Census, this means the number of females per 1000 males. The sex ratio of the Indian population has always been adverse to the females. In 1901 there were 972 females for 1000 males in India and the ratio decreased slowly during the succeeding decades and in 1971 there were only 930 females per 1000 males. During the 1981 Census, however, it stood at 933.

There are large variations in sex ratio between countries in different parts of the world. In some developed countries like United Kingdom (sex ratio 1060), Union of Soviet Socialist Republic (1145), United States of America (1059), Japan (1033) etc., the fair sex is in excess. In Sri Lanka (962), Pakistan (905) etc., as in the case of India, males are more in number.

The equilibrium in sex ratio depends upon different factors. The birth of child is a natural phenomenon and we cannot expect that male and female babies are born in equal numbers. Chances of their survival at different phases of life are also not equal. The adult people may go out of their places to earn their bread and such migrations also causes short accounting of either of the sexes in some areas. Marco Polo, the famous traveller, in his 13th century travel diary had mentioned about a female island in the Indian Ocean. It was perhaps Minicoy, the southern-most island in Lakshadweep group. The people of Minicoy are renowned scamen. They used to go all over the world engaged in their seafaring profession and trade with other countries.

They used to return home only in two or three years and that too for a few months. When Marco Polo visited the island, the male members might have been away in their voyages and the predominance of women in the island during that period might have induced him to describe this island as a female island. Similarly, it has also been recorded that when Mr. Winterbotham visited this island in 1876 he found that there were 1,179 women and only 351 men. The men were mostly the old and the infirm who could not pursue any work. The imbalance of men and women are thus caused by migratory movement of the people in some areas.

For a comparative study, the sex ratio of India from 1901 to 1981 are given below:—

Table IV.1
Trends in Population, India, 1901-1981

Census Year	Sex ratio (female per 1,000 males)
(1)	(2)
1901.	972
1911.	964
1921.	955
1931.	950
1941.	945
1951.	946
1961.	941
1971.	930
1981.	933

In every Census, Sex ratio was coming down and marked the lowest in the 1971 Census showing some improvement in 1981 Census. The possible variations in the sex ratio could be due to higher mortality rate among females either due to neglect especially at the earlier ages, or early marriage and child bearing coupled with unskilled midwifery. The tendency to conceal the existence of unmarried young women in the house and thereby relatively larger extent of omission of females in the Indian Censuses especially in the educationally backward areas would also have contributed to the recording of low sex ratio.

In all the States and Union Territories in India, the same pattern of sex ratio is noticed i.e., less females and more males except in Kerala. In regard to sex ratio, Kerala tells a different story. As per 1981 Census there are 1032 females per 1000 males there. Its high position in education, the status enjoyed by the women, the pattern of their social life etc., have ruled out the negligence towards females at all levels and helped to keep up the balance in the sex ratio. At the same time, migration of men to other States for business or employment might have caused reduction in the number of males.

The table given below shows the sex ratio of different States and Union Territories of India as per 1981, 1971 and 1961 Censuses with their ranks.

Table IV 2

Sex ratio of the States and Union Territories with ranks for the year 1981, 1971 and 1961

Name of State/ Union Territory	Sex ratio 1981	Rank 1981	Sex ratio 1971	Rank 1971	Sex Ratio 1961	Rank 1961
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
INDIA*	933	..	930	..	941	..
Kerala	1032	1	1016	1	1022	2
Pondicherry	985	2	989	3	1013	5
Orissa	981	3	988	4	1001	7
Goa, Daman & Diu	981	3	989	3	1071	1
Tamil Nadu	977	4	978	6	992	9
Andhra Pradesh	975	5	977	7	981	10
Lakshadweep	975	5	978	6	1020	3
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	974	6	1007	2	963	11
Himachal Pradesh	973	7	958	8	938	15
Manipur	971	8	980	5	1015	4
Karnataka	963	9	957	9	959	12
Meghalaya	954	10	942	13	937	16
Bihar	946	11	954	10	994	8
Tripura	946	11	943	12	932	19
Gujarat	942	12	934	15	940	14
Madhya Pradesh	941	13	941	14	953	13
Maharashtra	937	14	930	16	936	17

Table IV.2--contd.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Rajasthan	919	15	911	17	908	71
Mizoram	919	15	946	11	1009	6
West Bengal . . .	911	16	891	19	878	21
Assam†	901	17	897	18	872	25
Jammu & Kashmir .	892	18	878	21	878	24
Uttar Pradesh . .	885	19	879	20	909	20
Punjab	879	20	865	24	854	27
Haryana	870	21	867	23	868	26
Nagaland	863	22	871	22	933	18
Arunachal Pradesh .	862	23	861	26	894	23
Sikkim	835	24	863	25	904	22
Delhi	808	25	801	27	785	28
Chandigarh . . .	769	26	749	28	652	29
Andaman & Nicobar islands	760	27	644	29	617	30

*Projected figures for 1981.

*Projected figures of Assam for 1981 considered while working out sex ratio.

As per 1981 Census, the sex ratio in Lakshadweep is 975. It works out to 986 in the rural areas and 963 in the urban areas. For rural India it is 951 as compared to urban areas which has only 878. The urban rates for India and Lakshadweep have difference in sex ratio of 85. There is no marked variation between rural and urban ratio in Lakshadweep as also between the rural and urban islands. There was no urban areas in the Islands before 1981. The ratio in 1971 was 978 (all the islands put together). In earlier decades, i.e., in 1961, 1951 and 1941 the females were in excess. The sex ratio in Lakshadweep from 1901 to 1981 are given below which shows the pattern of change in the ratio.

Table IV.3
Changes in Sex ratio, 1901-1981

Union Territory	1901	1911	1921	1931	1941	1951	1961	1971	1981
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Lakshadweep .	1063	987	1027	994	1018	1043	1020	978	975

With the advent of developments in the islands large scale employment opportunities have been opened up in Government departments. The Islanders in general are hesitant to move out for jobs outside except Minicoy Islanders, where also the number of Seamen going out has been reduced recently. At the same time males from mainland went to the islands in large numbers on employment. The reduction of sex ratio caused during the past two decades can therefore be because of these reasons.

Let us see how the sex ratio has been maintained in different islands. Minicoy island retains the highest sex ratio (1154) followed by Andrott (1057) and Chetlat (1022) as per 1981 Census. In all these islands the females are in excess and it can be assumed that this is caused mainly due to men-selective temporary migration of those who went out from their own island on employment, study and religious service. The lowest are in Bitra (792) and Kavaratti (823). Number of females per 1000 males during 1971 and 1981 Censuses in different islands in Lakshadweep are given below:--

Table IV.4
Sex ratio of the Islands, 1961, 1971 & 1981

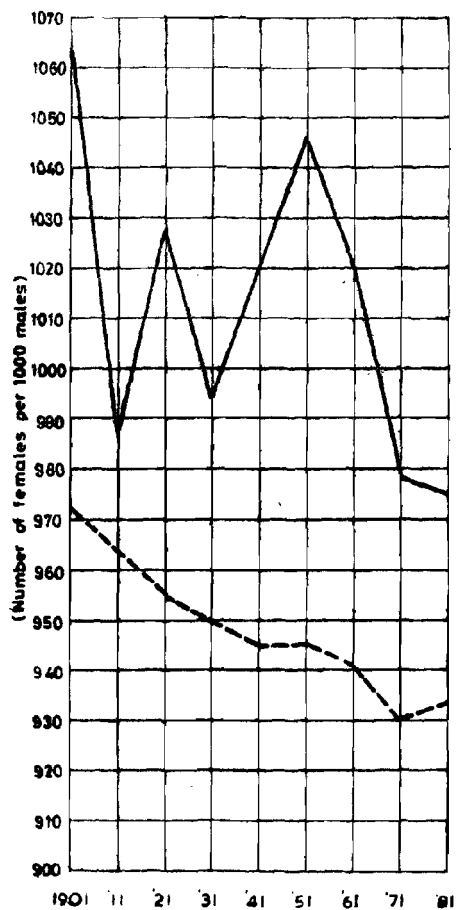
Name of Island	Sex ratio 1981	Rank	Sex ratio 1971	Rank	Sex ratio 1961	Rank
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Minicoy	1154	1	1196	1	1307	1
Andrott	1057	2	1033	3	1045	3
Chetlat	1022	3	1034	2	1122	2
Kiltan	997	4	945	7	995	5
Kadmat	973	5	1027	4	1030	4
Amini	933	6	869	9	870	9
Kalpeni	928	7	1019	5	974	6
Agatti	925	8	907	8	903	8
Kavaratti	823	9	810	10	954	7
Bitra	792	10	1000	6	702	10

In rural islands, Andrott has the highest ratio (1057) and Bitra the lowest (792). In urban islands, Minicoy comes first (1154). Kavaratti being the headquarters of the Administration it maintains a low sex ratio (823) since the families of several male employees do not accompany to the Island to live with their partners.

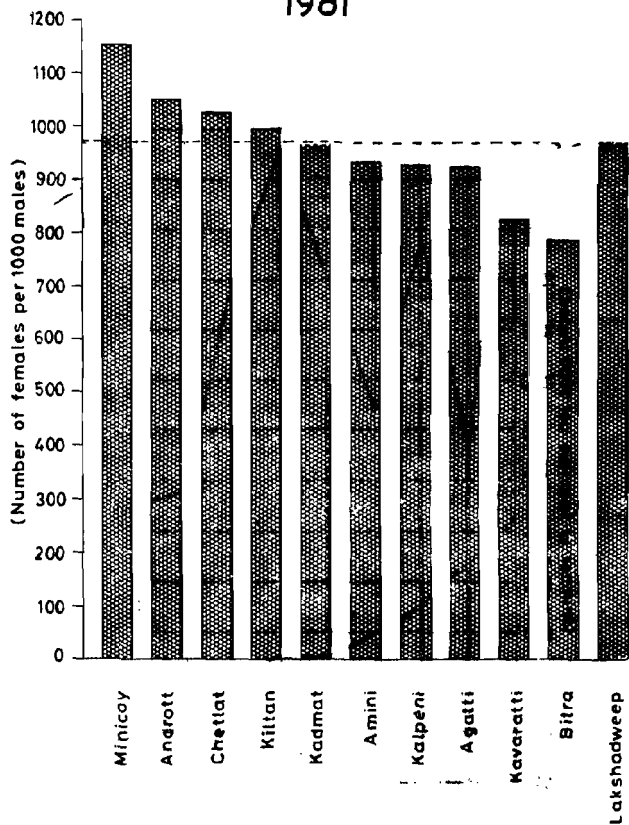
SEX RATIO

1901-81

India - - - - - Lakshadweep ———



SEX RATIO IN THE ISLANDS 1981



It will be imperative to know the size of the population in each age group and the sex ratio they maintained. The sex ratio in Lakshadweep and India in different age groups as per 1981 Census is given below:—

Table IV.5

Sex ratio of Various age-groups in Lakshadweep and India, 1981

Age-group	Sex ratio	
	Lakshadweep	India
1	2	3
All ages	975	934*
0—4	972	975
5—9	938	941
10—14	875	896
15—19	1013	890
20—24	1156	979
25—29	1196	971
30—34	985	965
35—39	1019	952
40—44	820	896
45—49	959	899
50—54	816	839
55—59	996	930
60—64	960	936
65—69	954	986
70—74	1006	959
75—79	987	974
80—84	707	992
85+	659	1045

*Excludes Assam

It is found that the Sex ratio in Lakshadweep is low in age groups upto 10-14 but assumes comparatively higher ratio upto 35-39 except in 30-35 age group and again goes down in the remaining age groups. The population is broadly divided into three categories viz., (i) the infants and children below the age of 15, (ii) the prosperous youths and working force between 15 and 59 and (iii) the old aged of sixty and above. The economic and social conditions of the country depends mainly on the size of

the population and its age structure. The Government has invariably to meet with the essential requirements of the educational facilities for the children, open up employment opportunities for the youth and take care of the old aged and retired people mostly. Traditionally therefore, the Indian Census has been collecting the data on age-structure, marital status, sex and many other social and cultural characteristics of the population.

The age of a person is recorded by the enumerator in total years completed on the last birth day.

The population of this Union Territory are classified into following different age groups.

Table IV.6

*Classification of Population of the Union Territory into different category
1971 & 81*

Sl. No.	Age group	Category of Population	Percentage to the total population	
			1971	1981
1	2	3	4	5
1.	0-4	Infants	15.65	13.91
2.	5-14	Young boys & girls	25.16	27.44
3.	15-34	Young men & women	33.43	31.79
4.	35-59	Middle aged men and women	20.68	21.98
5.	60+	Old men and women	5.08	4.88

It may be noted that the youth and the working force of this Union Territory form 53.77 per cent and the infants and children and the old aged above 60 form 46.23 per cent. The same for India is 53.91 for 15-59 and 46.04 per cent for the rest. Thus, the people in the working age group is more in Lakshadweep as compared to India as a whole.

Usually, the dependency ratio throws much light on the status of the economy of a country. This ratio, generally, is defined as the number of dependents i.e., the population in the age group 0-14 and 60+ for every hundred of the population in the working age group 15-59. The dependency ratio for the Union Territory of Lakshadweep is 86 as against 85 for India as a whole. This ratio of various countries are given in table IV.7 below. This

table reveals that the developing countries like India, Nepal, Iran, Bangladesh, Mexico, Pakistan etc. have very high dependency ratio. The proportion of children is much lower in the economically advanced countries than the developing countries.

Table IV.7

Age composition of the population in a few selected countries

Sl. No.	Name of country	Year	Percentage distribution by age-group			Dependency ratio (per 100)
			0-14	15-59	60+	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	U.S.A.	1982	22.18	61.67	16.15	62
2.	Canada	1983	21.92	63.78	14.30	57
3.	England	1982	19.93	59.40	20.67	68
4.	France	1983	21.81	60.42	17.77	66
5.	Sweden	1981	19.24	58.48	22.28	71
6.	F.D.R.	1982	16.86	63.39	19.75	58
7.	G.D.R.	1983	19.34	61.91	18.75	62
8.	U.S.S.R.	1980	24.52	65.05	10.18	53
9.	Japan	1982	12.96	63.53	13.51	57
10.	Mexico	1979	46.18	49.08	4.74	104
11.	Iran	1981	43.22	52.85	6.36	94
12.	Turkey	1980	38.51	54.83	6.62	82
13.	Poland	1982	24.73	61.91	13.36	62
14.	Argentina	1980	30.35	57.85	11.80	73
15.	Pakistan	1981	45.15	48.14	6.71	108
16.	Bangladesh	1981	45.82	49.34	4.84	103
17.	Nepal	1981	41.25	52.94	5.71	89
18.	Sri Lanka	1981	35.27	58.09	6.64	72
19.	India	1981	39.55	53.91	6.49	85
20.	China	1982	33.60	58.76	7.64	70

The statement below shows the sex-wise percentage population in different age groups for our Union Territory and India as a whole.

Table IV.8

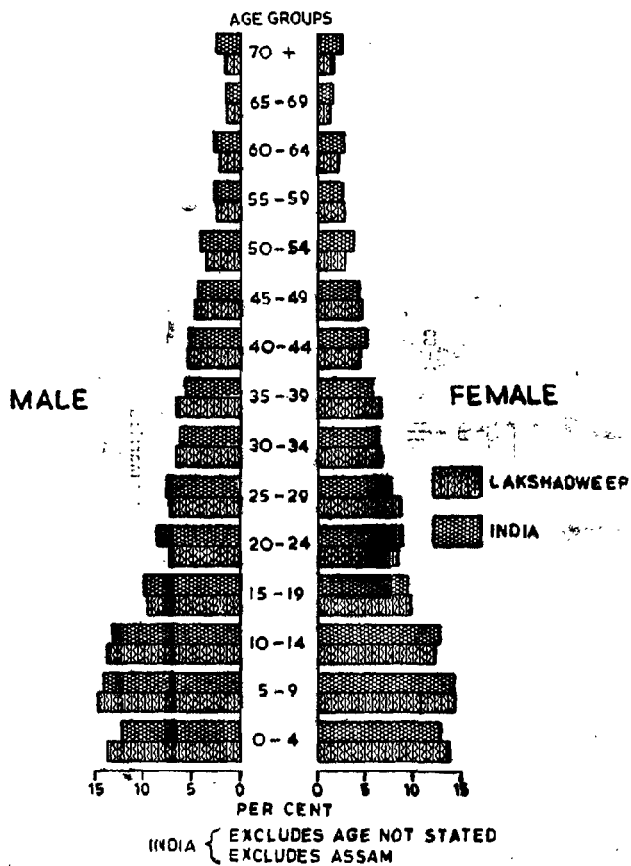
Sex-wise distribution of population (in percentage) of different age-group in Lakshadweep and India, 1981

Age group	Percentage to total population					
	Lakshadweep			India		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
0—14	41.35	42.34	40.33	39.55	39.47	39.63
15—19	9.57	9.39	9.76	9.64	9.89	9.37
20—24	7.79	7.14	8.46	8.62	8.43	8.82
25—29	7.90	7.10	8.70	7.62	7.49	7.77
30—34	6.53	6.50	6.56	6.37	6.28	6.47
35—39	6.62	6.48	6.77	5.84	5.79	5.90
40—49	9.57	10.03	9.10	9.53	9.71	9.34
50—59	5.79	6.05	5.53	6.29	6.49	6.07
60+	4.88	4.97	4.79	6.49	6.40	6.58

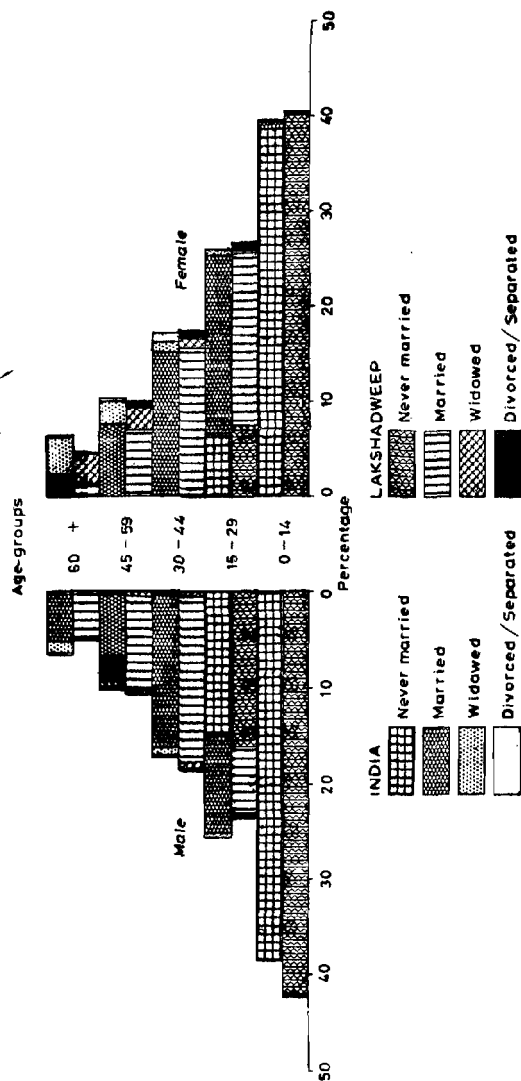
The percentage of population in age groups gives a pyramidal shape for both India and Lakshadweep, with a broad base of younger generation. But when broad age group is noticed, the 0-14 age group of younger generation and 60+ of old aged people have 39.55 and 6.49 percentage for India and 41.35 and 4.88 for the Lakshadweep population. The percentage of population in working age group is the same for both but in the younger age group Lakshadweep has 1.80% more males and in the older age group 1.61 per cent less than India's population. It is seen that there are 1.25% more males than females which comes to the excess of 505 in absolute number. But the same is not evenly distributed. It is so in 0-14 age group (101 age groups) but in 20-24 age group (227 male and 2529 more females) the excess of females is more pronounced.

POPULATION BY AGE-GROUPS

1981



MARITAL STATUS BY AGE AND SEX 1981



NOTE: Excludes Assam
Excludes A.N.S. and unspecified marital status

The demographic analysis on composition of sex and marital status are very important. Therefore in every census data are prepared classifying the population by their sex, marital status and age group.

Table IV.5

Percentage of married, widowed, divorced or separated population in each age group by sex in Lakshadweep and India, 1981

Age group	Male/ Female	Lakshadweep			India		
		Married	Widow- ed	Divor- ced/Sepa- rated	Married	Widow- ed	Divor- ced/Sepa- rated
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
All ages.	Male	38.30	1.37	0.90	42.05	2.43	0.23
	Female	41.82	7.14	2.80	45.79	8.02	0.42
10-14	Male	0.14	0.00	0.00	2.59	0.02	0.01
	Female	0.66	0.00	0.08	6.23	0.03	0.03
15-19	Male	1.20	0.00	0.00	12.24	0.09	0.07
	Female	32.49	0.52	2.01	43.44	0.21	0.43
20-24	Male	25.72	0.14	0.96	43.28	0.38	0.32
	Female	78.88	2.38	5.59	84.46	0.68	0.83
25-29	Male	71.73	0.35	1.45	77.35	0.79	0.48
	Female	90.98	1.68	4.22	94.35	1.48	0.90
30-34	Male	91.31	0.93	1.81	91.15	1.34	0.52
	Female	89.03	3.53	6.21	94.86	3.08	0.88
35-39	Male	96.06	0.68	1.67	94.26	1.93	0.49
	Female	87.81	5.80	5.65	92.70	5.36	0.78
40-44	Male	94.95	1.38	2.30	93.55	3.30	0.50
	Female	84.77	9.07	5.26	87.86	10.81	0.79
45-49	Male	96.12	1.47	1.78	92.92	4.45	0.46
	Female	77.92	15.19	6.23	83.15	15.73	0.68
50-54	Male	93.83	2.95	1.96	90.02	7.36	0.44
	Female	67.18	26.12	5.84	69.28	29.64	0.65
55-59	Male	90.37	5.01	3.47	88.63	9.01	0.41
	Female	57.06	37.91	5.03	67.56	31.57	0.51
60-64	Male	84.65	11.63	2.79	83.44	14.13	0.39
	Female	40.44	56.42	2.91	43.17	55.98	0.48
65-69	Male	80.08	15.77	2.90	80.58	17.06	0.38
	Female	25.22	70.00	3.91	40.79	58.41	0.41
70-	Male	70.59	25.59	2.65	70.45	27.12	0.39
	Female	13.92	82.85	2.91	21.72	77.57	0.30

On a perusal of the table, we can see that in Lakshadweep, married population was only 40%. Excluding the children at the age group of 0-9 it will go upto 56%. Taken into male

and female separately the percentage will be 38.30 for the total males and 41.82 for the total females. Never married persons form about 54% for the total population and 59% and 58% for total males and females respectively.

In Lakshadweep, out of the total population, 11,445 persons belong to the age group 0-9 and they as a whole come under the classification "never married". Though Child Marriage Act as in other parts of the country is prevalent here also, it has been recorded in the 1981 Census that four males and 16 females between the age group of 10-14 are having their spouses. The divorces are common in the islands. However, it is not a disqualification for a man or woman to seek fresh alliance. Still, there were 557 females and 183 males who remained as "Divorced or Separated". Ninety females and sixty males in this category were however above 50 years of age. Thus, a general feature noticed is that the number of divorced/separated and widowed are more among females than males, even though no stigma is attached to the remarriage of a widow or divorced female. There is no ban on the remarriage of a widow as per customs prevailing in the islands. Still the data show that there were 280 males and 1,418 females belonging to the different age groups classified as "widowed". Female widowed population above the age of 50 was 998 and that of males 222. It is noteworthy that the widows form more than 7% of the total women population of Lakshadweep. Attempt has been made to compare the marital status of Lakshadweep women with that of Kerala, our immediate neighbour with many demographic peculiarities and also with India. Actually the marriage in the lower age group is less as this period is spent in education. Even then there is difference between states. Thus, in the lower age group of 15-19 the percentage of married women is 32.49 for Lakshadweep which is lower than the all India level of 43.44% and higher than that of Kerala 14.13%. The percentage of married women is higher in the age group of 20-24 with 78.88% for Lakshadweep, 84.46% for India and 57.86% for Kerala. The higher proportion of married in the lower age group indicates about the lower age at marriage. The mean age at marriage of Lakshadweep females is 19.0 in 1981. The same for India is about one year less (18.3) and for Kerala about 3 years more (21.8) in 1981. However it is a matter of consolation that the percentage of married women to the total women in 15-44 age group in Lakshadweep (74.55) lies between the percentage of India (80.51%) and that of Kerala (60.73%). It is also seen that percentage of married women has decreased by 3.46 per cent in 1981 from 78.01 of 1971.

CHAPTER V

HOW MANY OF US CAN READ AND WRITE?

The cultural development of a country and its civilisation can be judged from the literacy and education the people of that country have achieved. Literacy and education are also vital to the economic and social development. Every Census, therefore, used to collect information on literacy and education and data tabulated. During the pre-Independence period educational facilities were available only to the forward communities or to the upper strata of the society and most of the people especially in villages remained illiterate. The local conditions and the prevailing customs kept India in a low rate of literacy. It is no wonder that in 1941, in our great country only 16.1 per cent of the population was literate. But after Independence, the situation has changed. The Directive principle of State policy as enshrined in the Constitution guaranteed free and compulsory education till the age of 14. Education and cultural development took a lion's share in our Plan estimates and the administrative machinery geared up towards promotion of education and literacy as a whole.

The individual slip which is the key schedule of the population Census contains certain basic information about each individual. Whether the individual is literate or illiterate is an important question and the whole population is primarily divided into two categories—literate and illiterate. The progress of literacy thus achieved in every decade can thus be assessed in census. Then the question arises as to who is a literate person? A person who could both read and write with understanding was considered as 'literate'. No formal education or educational standard was insisted upon. Ability to write one's own name does not qualify a person to be considered as literate. In the Union Territory of Lakshadweep, transliterating Malayalam language in Arabic alphabets is very popular especially among women folk. This is because they attend the Madrasas for their religious education from very early ages. For communication they write Malayalam words in Arabic alphabets and hence they are also treated as literates. Invariably all the children below the age of 5 are treated as illiterate.

According to 1981 Census, in India, 36.23 per cent of the population is literate. It may be noted that the literacy in India in 1901 was only 5.3 per cent and this had been raised to 16.7

per cent in 1951 and in the next two decades (1971) it went upto 29.5 per cent. Though we have to go a long way to attain the goal of universal literacy and education, the progress achieved by us so far gives us hope for eradication of illiteracy from our society in the foreseeable future. The statement below provides the decadal literacy rates in India and Lakshadweep from 1901 to 1981. Till the decade 1971 the literacy rate of Lakshadweep was lower than that of all India level. But in 1971 and 1981 it has exceeded the all India figures by half fold.

Table V.1

Progress of Literacy rates in India and Lakshadweep, 1901-1981

Literacy rate	1901	1911	1921	1931	1941	1951	1961	1971	1981
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
India	5.3	5.9	7.2	9.5	16.1	16.7	24.0	29.5	36.2
Lakshadweep	3.6	2.8	3.4	6.8	N.A.	15.2	23.3	43.7	55.1

The following table shows the percentage of literacy in different States/Union Territories as per 1981 Census with their ranks.

Table V.2

Literacy rates by sex, percentage decadal variation, States and Union Territories arranged in descending order of Literacy rates, 1981

Country/ State/ Union Territory	Rank	Percentage of literates to the total population			Percentage increase of literacy over 1971 Census
		Persons	Males	Females	
1	2	3	4	5	6
INDIA		36.23*	46.89	24.82	+22.90
Kerala	1	70.42	75.26	65.73	+16.55
Chandigarh	2	64.79	69.00	59.31	+ 5.25
Delhi	3	61.54	68.40	53.07	+ 8.71
Mizoram	4	59.88	64.46	54.91	+11.32
Goa, Daman & Diu	5	56.66	65.59	47.56	+26.61
Pondicherry	6	55.85	65.84	45.71	+21.36
Lakshadweep	7	55.07	65.24	44.65	+26.13

Table V.2 - *Contd.*

1	2	3	4	5	6
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	8	51.56	58.72	42.14	+18.28
Maharashtra	9	47.18	58.79	34.79	+20.42
Tamil Nadu	10	46.76	58.26	34.99	+18.50
Gujarat	11	43.70	54.44	32.30	+22.10
Nagaland	12	42.57	50.06	33.89	+55.36
Himachal Pradesh	13	42.48	53.19	31.46	+32.92
Tripura	14	42.12	51.70	32.00	+35.96
Manipur	15	41.35	53.29	29.06	+25.65
West Bengal	16	40.94	50.67	30.25	+23.31
Punjab	17	40.86	47.16	33.69	+21.35
Karnataka	18	38.46	48.81	27.71	+22.02
Haryana	19	36.14	48.20	22.27	+34.40
Orissa	20	34.23	47.10	21.12	+30.75
Meghalaya	21	34.08	37.89	30.08	+15.56
Sikkim	22	34.05	43.95	22.20	+91.94
Andhra Pradesh	23	29.94	39.26	20.39	+21.86
Madhya Pradesh	24	27.87	39.49	15.53	+25.88
Uttar Pradesh	25	27.16	38.76	14.04	+25.16
Jammu & Kashmir	26	26.67	36.29	15.88	+43.54
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	27	26.67	36.32	16.78	+78.16
Bihar	28	26.20	38.11	13.62	+31.39
Rajasthan	29	24.38	36.30	11.42	+27.84
Arunachal Pradesh	30	20.79	28.94	11.32	+84.15

*Excludes Assam.

The above table shows that the literacy trend in different States and Union Territories are uneven. Lakshadweep occupies the 7th rank in all the States and Union Territories in India. Lakshadweep has improved in rank from that of 16 in 1961 to 7 in 1971 and 1981 Censuses. There were cases of improvement and decline in ranking but Lakshadweep registered absolute gain in literacy rate between 1961 and 1981. Populated by 93.82 per cent Scheduled Tribes, this Union Territory keeps an enviable position in the matter of literacy. There is every hope that the synergic effect of the efforts of the Education and Social Welfare Departments of the Administration will take this Union Territory to the highest rank in the matter of literacy soon.

Kerala State securing 70.42 per cent literacy rate surpassed all the States and Union Territories to reach the first rank during 1981. The Union Territory of Chandigarh which was occupying this unique position during 1971 has come down to the second rank with a literacy rate of 64.79%. Arunachal Pradesh had the lowest rate of literacy (20.79%) in 1981 and remained in the last position as in 1961 and 1971. The States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar etc. still maintain very low literacy rates.

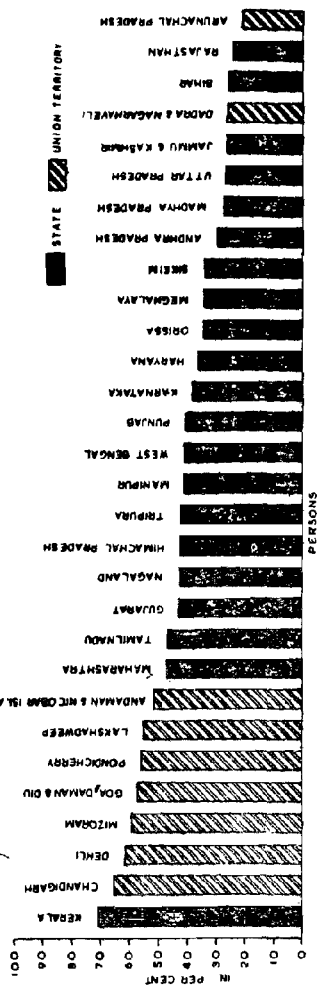
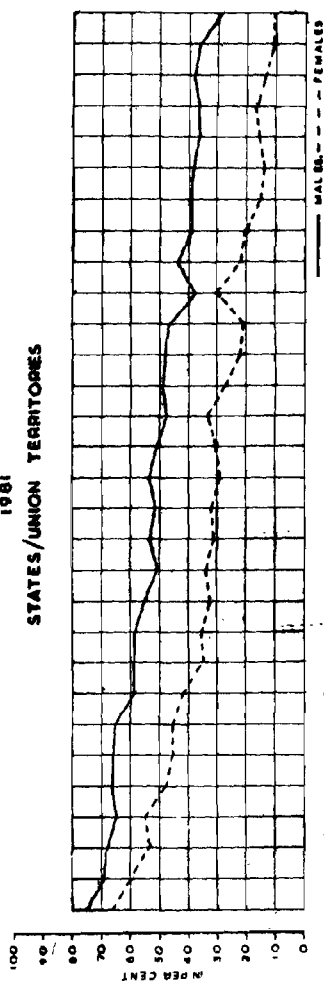
In the field of literacy, Lakshadweep has done tremendously well after Independence and especially after these islands were constituted into a Union Territory. The Government of India have provided special facilities and incentives for the children of Lakshadweep for their schooling and for higher education. This Union Territory has now come to a stage from the position of 3.59 literacy rate in 1901 to 55.07% literacy in 1981. Against the All India literacy rate of 36.2% in 1981 it is indeed a remarkable progress. As already stated, the children below the age of 5 are considered as illiterate, even if they are able to read and write to a certain level. We have to exclude all the children below the age of 5 from the total population for a realistic calculation of literacy rate called as effective literacy. Excluding the children below the age of 5, the population in Lakshadweep comes to 34,652 out of which 22,165 are literates which in fact works out to 63.96 per cent.

The table below gives the number of literates and educated persons and their percentage to the population in each age group.

Table V.3
Age, Sex and Literacy, 1981

Age-group	Population			Literates		
	P	M	F	P	M	F
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
All ages .	40,249	20,377	19,872	22,165	13,293	8,872
0—4 .	5,597	2,838	2,759	..	..	..
5—9 .	5,848	3,017	2,831	2,093	1,144	949
10—14 .	5,197	2,772	2,425	4,724	2,595	2,129
15—19 .	3,853	1,914	1,939	3,509	1,827	1,682
20—24 .	3,135	1,454	1,681	2,705	1,387	1,318
25—29 .	3,177	1,447	1,730	2,576	1,364	1,212
30—34 .	2,628	1,324	1,304	1,877	1,212	665
35—59 .	8,848	4,596	4,252	4,070	3,211	859
60+ .	1,963	1,012	951	607	550	57

LITERACY RATES 1981 STATES/UNION TERRITORIES



LAKSHADWEEP LITERATES BY AGE-GROUP, SEX AND LEVEL OF EDUCATION 1981

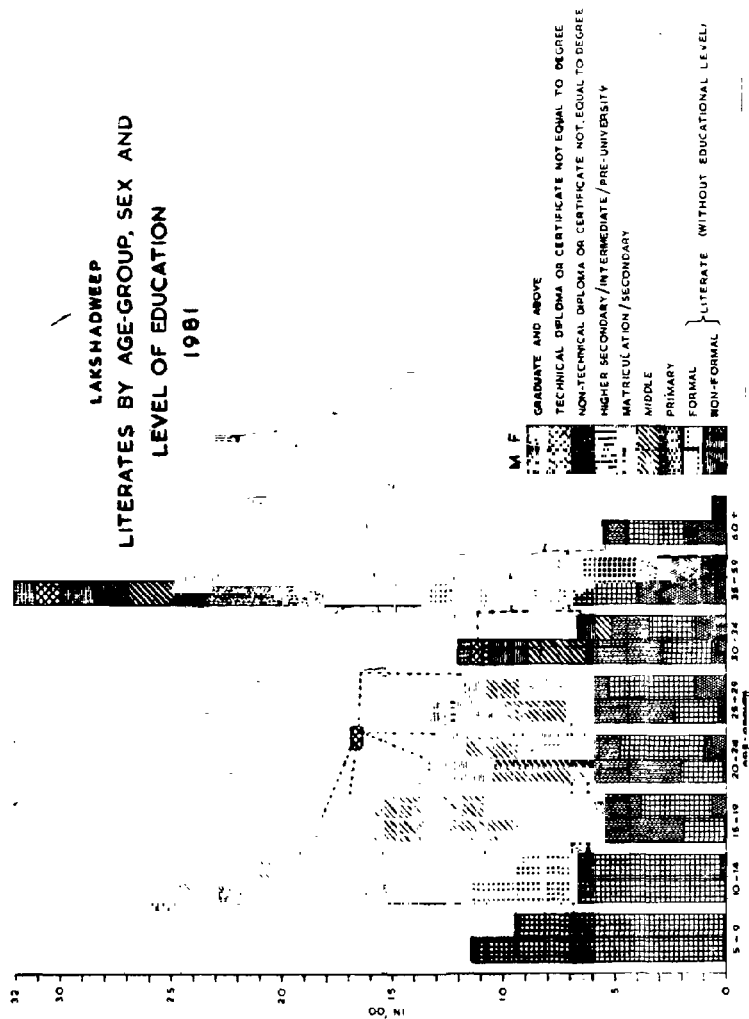


Table V.3—*Contd.*

Age-group	Percentage of literates to total population		
	P	M	F
1	8	9	10
All ages	55.07	65.24	44.65
0—4	..	..	..
5—9	35.79	37.92	33.52
10—14	90.90	93.61	87.79
15—19	91.07	95.45	86.75
20—24	86.23	95.39	78.41
25—29	81.08	84.26	70.06
30—34	71.42	91.54	51.00
35—59	46.00	69.87	20.20
60+	30.92	54.35	5.99

The general trend of literacy is that the literacy rate is higher for younger persons of school going age than for older persons. Since the children enter the school at the age of 5 or preferably at 6, the greater literacy rate will be at ages 10-19. The highest rate Lakshadweep registered is 91.07 for 15-19 as compared to the all India rate of 55.4 in 1981 but the female rates are to improve further. This shows that the Islands have made commendable success in the field of Education.

Literacy rate among females is 24.82 for India as a whole against 46.89 among males. Female literacy in our country especially in rural areas has been very low for ages. The stigma against women's education is disappearing fast. Though social customs and manners in Lakshadweep has given the women folk a high position in the society, the female literacy rate is only 44.65% whereas the male literacy rate is 65.24%. The male-female difference in literacy rate comes to 20.59% as per 1981 Census. This has however shown a sure improvement and this difference has been reduced to the extent of 5.33% from 1971. Our Union Territory however is more progressive in advancement of literacy in both sexes when compared to literacy rate of males and females in India. The table below shows the pattern of improvement made by this Union Territory in literacy rate by sex from 1901 to 1981.

Table V.4

Progress of Literacy by sex, Lakshadweep, 1901—1981

Year	Literacy rate			Female rate/ male rate
	Persons	Males	Females	
1	2	3	4	5
1901	3.59	6.66	0.71	10.66
1911	2.79	5.50	0.04	0.73
1921	3.42	6.78	0.14	2.06
1931	6.67	12.43	1.08	8.69
1941	Not available			
1951	15.23	25.59	5.30	20.71
1961	23.27	35.80	10.80	30.17
1971	43.46	56.48	30.86	54.64
1981	55.07	65.24	44.65	68.44

The whole Union Territory is considered as a District for all purposes. Therefore, Union Territory level data prepared are the same for Lakshadweep District also. The Union Territory/Island-wise literacy rate in Lakshadweep as per 1981 Census are given below:—

Table V.5

Literacy rates by Sex in Islands, 1981

District/Island	Literacy rate		
	Total	Male	Female
1	2	3	4
LAKSHADWEEP	55.07	65.24	44.65
Minicoy	65.29	71.40	59.99
Kalpeni	55.88	67.19	43.70
Andrott	48.78	61.58	36.68
Kavaratti	60.22	70.74	47.43
Agatti	51.76	61.19	44.56
Anini	48.48	62.90	33.04
Kadmat	56.07	64.01	47.92
Kiltan	46.96	56.01	37.69
Chetlat	40.93	53.90	43.07
Bitra	41.96	52.40	40.00

The facilities for education in Lakshadweep are more or less evenly distributed in all the islands. There are schools in all the islands upto Upper Primary stage except in Bitra. One can understand as to what extent the Government is earnestly making attempts to improve literacy by seeing the fact that Bitra Island with a population of only 181 persons is provided with a Primary School. Out of the ten inhabited islands eight have High Schools and in the headquarter island Kavaratti, a Junior College. Hence there can be no fundamental difference between the rural areas and the urban areas in Lakshadweep in the matter of education and literacy. This is evident from the fact that Kadmat which is a rural island is having 7.59% more literacy rate than that of the urban island of Amini. However it is noticed that as a whole the literacy rate is a little higher in the urban islands (58.65%) than in the rural islands (51.98%). In the urban islands, Minicoy comes first (65.29%) in this respect. Kavaratti, the headquarter island come to the second place (60.22%) and Amini to the last (48.48%). Among the rural islands, Kadmat occupies the top rank (56.07%) and Kiltan the last (46.86%). It is pertinent that in Lakshadweep the rural island with the lowest literacy rate is having 10.63% more than the all India literacy rate of 36.23%. In the case of male population, Minicoy comes to the first rank followed by Kavaratti in the urban islands and in the rural islands, Kalpeni followed by Kadmat. In respect of females, same trend is noticed in urban islands and in rural islands Kadmat keeps the first position (47.92%) followed by Chetlat (45.07%).

The people of Lakshadweep who and both of whose parents are born in Lakshadweep are treated as Scheduled Tribes. Therefore almost all the local inhabitants are Scheduled Tribes. According to 1981 Census 93.82% of the population of this Territory belongs to Scheduled Tribe community. Among the total Scheduled Tribe population 53.13% are literates. Categorising them into rural and urban, literates in the rural area form 51% and in the urban area 55.76%, whereas the literacy rate for the whole Union Territory is 55.07%. Among the local inhabitants, who are classified as Scheduled Tribes, this has

come down to 53.13%. This reduction is proportionately noticed in the percentages of literacy among males and females as given in the following table.

Table V.6

Literacy rate among the Scheduled Tribes in Lakshadweep, 1981

Union Territory/Island	Among the total Scheduled Tribe population		
	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4
LAKSHADWEEP	53.13	63.34	42.92
Minicoy	63.55	69.20	58.86
Kalpeni	55.08	66.44	43.06
Andrott	47.58	60.23	35.93
Agatti	53.93	63.61	43.55
Kavaratti	55.17	66.81	41.35
Amini	47.09	61.61	31.93
Kadmat	55.34	63.21	47.38
Kiltan	45.83	54.75	36.95
Chetlat	48.31	52.62	44.26
Bitra	46.67	52.00	40.00

The Lakshadweep Administration have very rightly emphasized the building up of expertise in the Education sector. As stated different types of educational institutions from Nursery Schools and Balwadies to Junior College are functioning in the islands. They are far in excess of the national norms. Various kinds of incentives and facilities such as free mid-day meals, free supply of text books and writing materials, payment of scholarships etc. are provided to the children who attend the school/college. In spite of all these, during 1981 Census 4572 people belonging to the school going age group of 5-19

were returned as illiterates. This will in fact form more than 30% of the population of the age group. The illiterates and their age groups as per 1981 Census are given below :—

Table V.7

Illiterates by age and Sex, Lakshadweep, 1981

Age group	Total population		Illiterates	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5
All ages	20,377	19,872	7,084	11,000
0—4	2,838	2,759	2,838	2,759
5	644	632	628	623
6	641	582	568	515
7	594	597	367	382
8	592	557	207	242
9	547	462	102	120
5—9	3,017	2,831	1,873	1,882
10—14	2,772	2,425	177	296
15—19	1,914	1,939	87	257
20—24	1,454	1,681	67	363
25—29	1,447	1,730	83	518
30—34	1,324	1,304	112	639
35—59	4,596	4,252	1,385	3,393
60+	1,012	951	462	894

The above statement shows that special care and efforts are still needed to reach the goal of full literacy and eradicate illiteracy from Lakshadweep.

Out of the total population of Lakshadweep, 27.41% numbering 11,031 are in schools/College. The age groups of these people are as follows :—

Table V.8

Persons attending Educational institutions by age and Sex, 1981

Age group	Total Population			Total persons attending schools/college		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Female
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
All ages	40,249	20,377	19,872	11,031	6,447	4,584
4	5,598	2,839	2,759	38	19	19
5	1,277	645	632	248	133	115

Table V.8- *contd.*

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	1,224	642	582	736	400	336
7	1,191	593	598	962	490	472
8	1,149	591	558	1,012	542	470
9	1,010	547	463	925	514	411
5-9	5,849	3,018	2,831	3,882	2,080	1,802
10-14	5,198	2,773	2,425	4,560	2,588	1,972
15-19	3,854	1,915	1,939	2,119	1,384	735
20-24	3,135	1,454	1,681	391	337	54
25-29	3,177	1,447	1,730	27	25	2
30-34	2,628	1,324	1,304	4	3	1
35+	10,812	5,608	5,204	11	11	0

The Pre-primary education is yet to be popularised in the islands as revealed from the above table. In the age group of 5-9, only 19.42% of the 5 year old children attend the school, which increases to 60.13% in the 6th year and reaches the maximum in the age of 9th year with 91.58%. Thus the admission to schools actually takes place in the 6th year and at the age of 9 attendance on the school is brisk. Similarly in the age group of 15-19 more girls discontinue than boys. Thus when 72.27% boys continue the education only 37.91% girls attend school in the 15-19 age group. The completion of High School education is a turning point in education and generally girls discontinue education thereafter. The Island authorities are successful in motivating the parents in overcoming the general apathy to education and thus enable to impart functional literacy to the people.

It may be interesting to know the level of education of the literate people of Lakshadweep as per 1981 Census. The table V.9 presents educational level of literate population by age and

sex. The general trend in the quality of literacy is that literates tend to be more highly educated, on the average in recent years. Thus in Lakshadweep there are 300 persons in the graduate and above category and 298 diploma holders. But there are only 63 diploma holders and 37 degree holders among females as compared to 235 diploma and 263 degree holders respectively among males in Lakshadweep. The educational attainments of females is not encouraging. Generally the girl students are found to be little reserved to go out to mainland for the continuation of education and the parents like to see their daughters to start their family life soon. However, looking into the figure of those who continue their education beyond the age of 20 numbering 433 including 57 females one may infer that it is a positive gesture of their urge for better attainments in education.

Table V.9

*Distribution of population by age, sex and completed level of education
Lakshadweep, 1981*

Age group	Total Population		Literate without educational level				Educational level			
			Non-for mal		For mal		Primary		Middle	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
All ages	20377	19872	715	911	4749	3426	3984	2869	2193	1147
0—4	2838	2759	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5—9	3017	2831	6	9	1116	917	23	23	0	0
10—14	2772	2425	3	17	1154	946	1256	1014	181	151
15—19	1914	1939	6	64	186	321	740	705	754	498
20—24	1454	1681	15	92	186	382	419	468	452	240
25—29	1447	1730	33	140	196	398	457	394	323	156
30—34	1324	1304	67	140	217	207	352	170	262	74
35—59	4596	4252	395	402	1430	248	657	90	215	28
60+	1012	951	190	47	264	7	88	4	5	0

Table V.9—contd

Age group	Educational level									
	Matricula- tion/Seco- ndary		Higher Secondary/ Inter/Pre- university		Non-Tech- nical di- ploma or certificate not equal to degree		Technical diploma or certi- ficate not equal to degree		Graduate and above	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
All ages .	1048	390	104	30	25	4	210	59	263	37
0—4 .	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5—9 .	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10—14 .	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15—19 .	136	93	4	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
20—24 .	262	116	30	6	3	2	14	9	15	2
25—29 .	208	83	33	13	7	1	25	13	86	13
30—34 .	177	51	19	7	5	1	51	10	61	6
35—59 .	268	46	18	3	10	0	117	27	100	16
60+ .	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0

Our Constitution envisages free and compulsory education till the age of 14. The relevant laws prohibits the child labour data of 1981 reveals that out of 11,046 children of the age of 5-14 are expected to attend schools. However the Census data of 1981 reveals that out of 11,046 children of the age group, only 76.43% are attending schools and 1,122 males and 1,482 females totalling 2,604 of the age group 5-14 were not attending the schools. A few of them were engaged in some economic activities supporting their families. The table below classifies the children not attending schools at each of the ages from 5 to 14 and further as main workers, marginal workers and non-workers.

Table V.10

Children not attending schools and their type of engagement, Lakshadweep, 1981

CHILDREN NOT ATTENDING SCHOOL AND ENGAGED AS									
Age	Main workers			Marginal workers			Non-workers		
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Total	16	15	31	6	5	11	1100	1462	2562
5	0	0	0	0	0	0	511	517	1028
6	0	0	0	0	0	0	241	247	488
7	0	0	0	0	0	0	103	126	229
8	0	1	1	0	0	0	49	87	136
9	0	0	0	0	0	0	33	52	85
10	0	1	1	0	1	1	31	71	102
11	0	1	1	0	0	0	22	35	57
12	0	4	4	0	2	2	53	103	156
13	4	3	7	3	1	4	25	98	123
14	12	5	17	3	1	4	32	127	159

There are yet few children of the age 5-14 of school going age not attending school. Though they comprise both sexes, girls excelled boys in each age from 5 to 14. Thus, out of 2,562 not attending school 57.06 per cent are girls and the remaining boys who are wholly dependent on parents. But very negligible number has been shown as workers. They are constituted by one girl of 5-9 age group and 16 boys and 14 girls of 10-14 age group who may include the servants brought by the mainland government employees families, those who assist in fishing, boat building etc.

The target of current education policy is 100 per cent literacy except for very young children aged below 5 who are illiterates. Since the population above age 5 constitute about 85%, the literacy rate of 85% is defined as full literacy for the purpose of projection. In a paper on 'Recent literacy trends in India' it has been shown projected that when India requires above 7.2 decades to attain full literacy, Lakshadweep requires only 2.6 decades. Thus when Kerala would attain the goal in 1.5 decades and Goa, Daman and Diu in 2.4 decades, the Lakshadweep holds the third position to attain full literacy. But it is quite possible that Lakshadweep will forge ahead to attain the goal still earlier on watching the speedy measures applied by the Administration and also due to the very limited population it contains.

CHAPTER VI

LANGUAGES WE SPEAK

In the 1981 Census a new question on the 'Language mainly spoken in the Household' was asked in the Household Schedule along with the two usual language questions on 'mother tongue' and 'other languages known' in the Individual Slip. The institutional households which are linguistically heterogeneous and may or may not have a uniform household language are excluded from these data. Out of the total population of 40,249 in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep, the institutional population is only 540 constituting 1.34 per cent.

Question 5 on 'Language mainly spoken in the household' in the Household Schedule was canvassed in all the households other than institutional households. The raw returns were rather unusually large. All these returns were scrutinised following usual linguistic methods including studying 'Language specimens' and undertaking field investigations.

The distribution of the 1981 household population by languages grouped into scheduled languages and languages other than scheduled are shown in alphabetical order in Parts A and B of Table 6.1 given below:

Table VI.1—Part A

Statement showing the speakers of Household population by language mainly spoken in the Household (inclusive of Variants grouped under each) specified in Schedule VIII to the Constitution of India

Language	Number of speakers
1	2
1. Assamese	..
2. Bengali	3
3. Gujarati	2
4. Hindi	25
5. Kannada	3
6. Kashmiri	..
7. Malayalam	33,559
8. Marathi	..

Table VI. 1—Part A—*contd.*

i	2
9. Oriya	5
10. Punjabi	9
11. Sanskrit	..
12. Sindhi	..
13. Tamil	35
14. Telugu	20
15. Urdu	26

Table VI. 1—Part B

Statement showing the speakers of Household population by languages mainly spoken in the Household (inclusive of variants where grouped) other than those specified in Schedule VIII to the Constitution of India

Language	Number of speakers
1. Konkani	2
2. English	3
3. Other languages	6,017

Out of the total population (excluding institutional household population) of 39,709 in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep, 33,687 are the speakers of Schedule VIII languages constituting 84.83 per cent and 6,022 are the speakers of other languages constituting 15.17 per cent to total household population.

In both parts A & B of the table variants have been grouped in some cases under the relevant languages. This has been done on the basis of linguistic information readily available or in the light of studies already made. These identifiable variants which returned 10,000 or more speakers each at all-India level and have been grouped under Parts A and B languages are shown below:—

Part A.

Gujarati Sourashtra

Part B.

Nil Nil

All other returns falling under Part B and which returned less than 10,000 speakers each at the all-India level or were not linguistically identifiable are included in the Category 'others' occurring as the last entry in Part B.

CHAPTER VII

RELIGIONS WE FOLLOW

As in the case of languages, the people of different faith also live in India. All the people are affiliated to one or the other religion and that religion has deeply rooted in their lives influencing their socio-economic conditions and cultural habits. India is a secular country. But religion plays an important role in the demographic aspects in India and therefore in every Census, data are collected on 'religion we follow'.

Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Sikhism, Buddhism and Jainism are the major Religions practised in India. Hinduism is the most predominant religion consisting of 82.63% of Indian population as its followers. Islam is the second major religion having 11.36 per cent of the total population of India. With a numerical strength of 16,165,447 (2.43%) Christians come third and Sikhs, Buddhists and Jains follow the order. The other religions and persuasions are negligible.

The religion data of 1981 Census which have been discussed in this chapter are based on the religion of the head of household as collected in the Household Schedule for normal and houseless households and on the religion of the individuals as collected in the Individual Slips for the institutional households. The reader may keep this point in mind while comparing the religion data of 1981 census with those of the earlier censuses where these were based on the religion returned by the individual.

The religionwise population figures in respect of India and different States and Union Territories are given below:—

Table VII.1

States and Union Territories showing percentage distribution of major religions, other religions and persuasions and religions not stated, 1981

Sl. No.	India/State/ Union Territory	Total	Hindus	Muslim	Christians
1	2	3	4	5	6
	INDIA*	100.00	82.63	11.36	2.43
	States				
1.	Andhra Pradesh	100.00	88.75	8.47	2.68



Plate 9—Hexagenarians

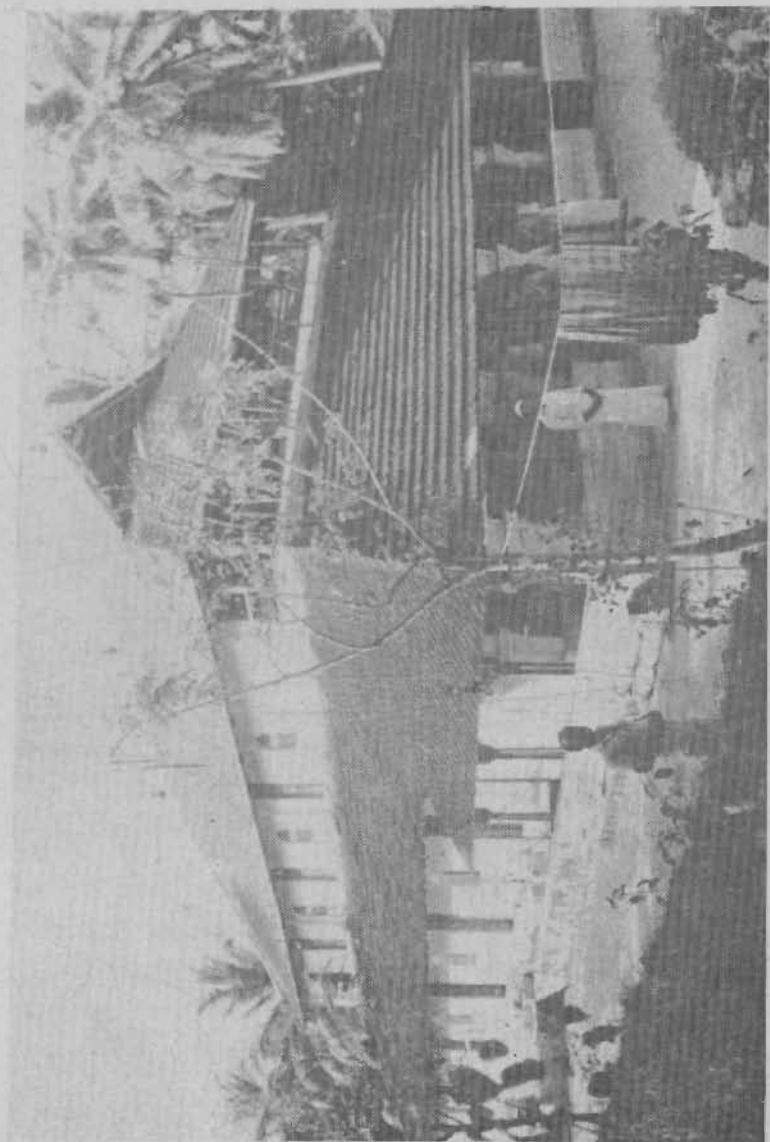


Plate 10—Jume Mosque

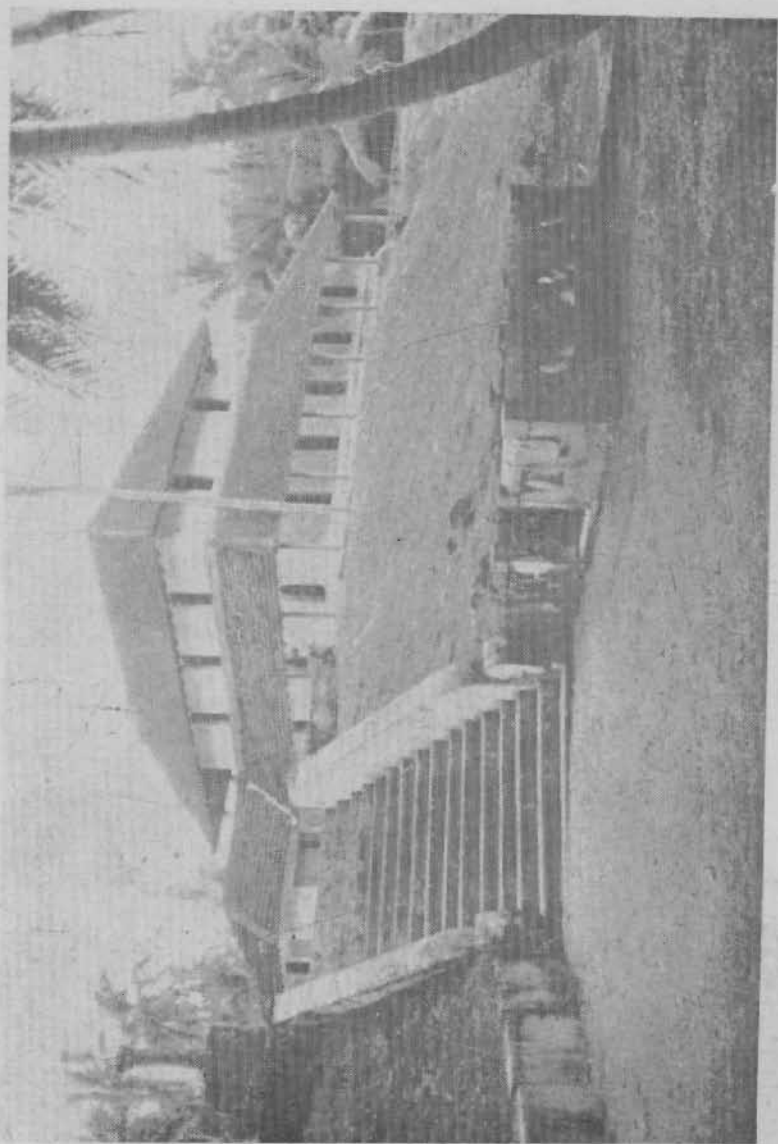


Plate 11—Ujira Mosque—Near the step is a tank believed to contain medicinal water

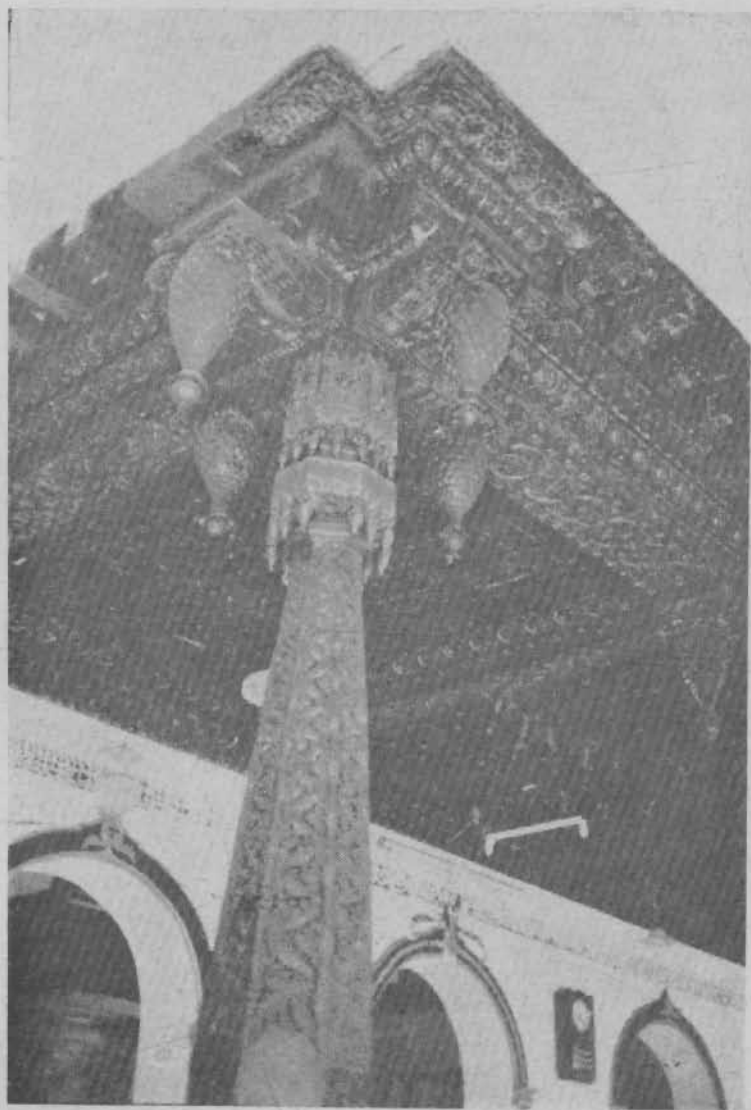


Plate 12—Intricate carving in Ujira Mosque

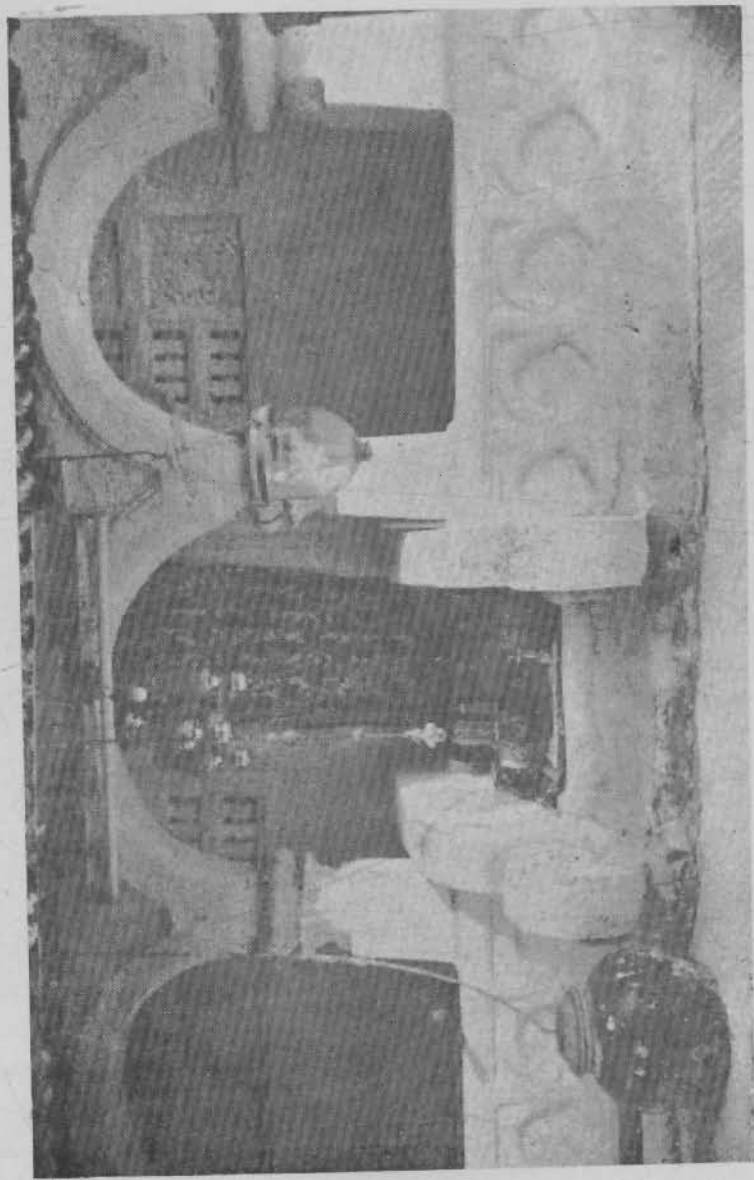


Plate 13—A front view of Makbara near Ujira Mosque



Plate 14—Women in traditional costume

Table VII. 1—*contd.*

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	Bihar	100.00	82.97	14.13	1.06
3.	Gujarat	100.00	89.53	8.53	0.39
4.	Haryana	100.00	89.36	4.05	0.09
5.	Himachal Pradesh	100.00	95.77	1.63	0.09
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	100.00	32.24	64.19	0.14
7.	Karnataka	100.00	85.92	11.05	2.06
8.	Kerala	100.00	58.15	21.25	20.56
9.	Madhya Pradesh	100.00	92.96	4.80	0.68
10.	Maharashtra	100.00	81.40	9.25	1.27
11.	Manipur	100.00	60.04	6.99	29.68
12.	Meghalaya	100.00	18.03	3.10	52.62
13.	Nagaland	100.00	14.36	1.52	80.21
14.	Orissa	100.00	95.42	1.60	1.82
15.	Punjab	100.00	36.93	1.00	1.10
16.	Rajasthan	100.00	89.32	7.28	0.12
17.	Sikkim	100.00	67.25	1.03	2.22
18.	Tamil Nadu	100.00	88.86	5.21	5.78
19.	Tripura	100.00	89.34	6.75	1.21
20.	Uttar Pradesh	100.00	83.31	15.93	0.15
21.	West Bengal	100.00	76.96	21.51	0.59
Union Territories					
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	100.00	64.53	8.58	25.58
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	100.00	29.24	0.80	4.32
3.	Chandigarh	100.00	75.27	2.02	0.99
4.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	100.00	95.56	1.86	1.95
5.	Delhi	100.00	83.60	7.75	0.99
6.	Goa, Daman & Diu	100.00	65.90	4.46	29.28
7.	Lakshadweep	100.00	1.47	94.84	0.66
8.	Mizoram	100.00	7.14	0.45	83.81
9.	Pondicherry	100.00	85.57	6.06	8.26

Table VII.1—*contd.*

Sl. No.	India/State/Union Territory	Sikhs	Buddhists	Jains	Other religions and persuasions	Religions not stated
1	2	7	8	9	10	11
INDIA						
		1.96	0.71	0.48	0.42	0.01
States						
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.03	0.02	0.03	N	0.02
2.	Bihar	0.11	N	0.04	1.69	N
3.	Gujarat	0.07	0.02	1.37	0.05	0.04
4.	Haryana	6.21	0.01	0.27	0.01	N
5.	Himachal Pradesh	1.22	1.23	0.02	0.01	0.03
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	2.23	1.17	0.03	N	N
7.	Karnataka	0.02	0.11	0.80	0.04	N
8.	Kerala	0.01	N	0.02	N	0.01
9.	Madhya Pradesh	0.27	0.14	0.85	0.30	N
0.	Maharashtra	0.17	6.28	1.50	0.12	0.01
11.	Manipur	0.07	0.03	0.07	2.50	0.62
12.	Meghalaya	0.13	0.20	0.04	25.77	0.11
13.	Nagaland	0.10	0.07	0.15	3.59	N
14.	Orissa	0.05	0.03	0.03	1.04	0.01
15.	Punjab	60.75	N	0.16	0.05	0.01
16.	Rajasthan	1.44	0.01	1.82	0.01	N
17.	Sikkim	0.10	28.71	0.03	0.63	0.03
18.	Tamil Nadu	0.01	N	0.10	0.04	N
19.	Tripura	0.01	2.67	0.02	N	N
20.	Uttar Pradesh	0.41	0.05	0.13	0.02	N
21.	West Bengal	0.09	0.29	0.07	0.48	0.01
Union Territories						
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0.52	0.07	N	0.12	0.60
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.19	13.69	0.01	51.60	0.15
3.	Chandigarh	21.11	0.10	0.42	0.06	0.03
4.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.01	0.18	0.36	0.07	0.01
5.	Delhi	6.33	0.11	1.19	0.02	0.01
6.	Goa Daman & Diu	0.13	0.03	0.06	0.05	0.09
7.	Lakshadweep	..	..	..	..	0.03
8.	Mizoram	0.09	8.19	N	0.32	..
9.	Pondicherry	N	0.01	0.05	0.03	0.02

*Excludes Assam

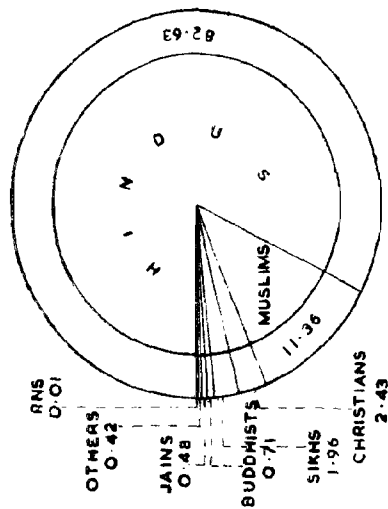
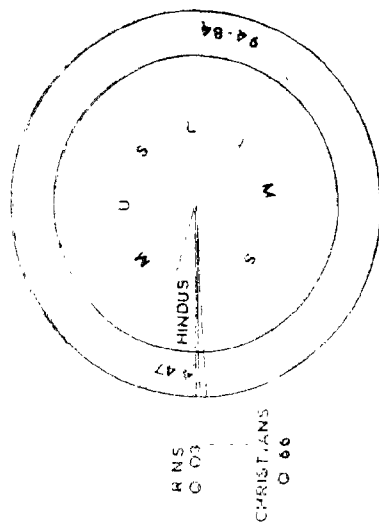
N—Negligible

PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION BY RELIGION

1981

LAKSHADWEEP

INDIA



NOTE - RNS = Religion Not Stated

According to the 1981 Census, there were 38,173 persons belonging to Islam in Lakshadweep which in fact comes to 94.84% of the total population. There is no other State or Union Territory in India with that much of Muslim proportion. Jammu & Kashmir which comes next to Lakshadweep has 64.19% of Muslim population. This is followed by West Bengal with 21.51% and the neighbouring state of Kerala with 21.25% of Muslim population. All the other States and Union Territories are having less than 16 per cent of Muslims. In Lakshadweep the Hindus form only 4.47% of the total population. Thus, among the States and Union Territories the percentage of Hindus is the least in Lakshadweep. There are more than 95% Hindus in States/Union Territories like Himachal Pradesh, Orissa and Dadra and Nagar Haveli. Among the other major religions maximum percentage of Christians are found in Mizoram (83.81%) followed by Nagaland (80.21%). Sikhs are mostly found in Punjab (60.75%) and Chandigarh (21.11%). Major pockets of Buddhists are in Sikkim (28.71%), Arunachal Pradesh (13.69%) and Mizoram (8.19%). Jains are found as less than 2% of the population in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Delhi etc. in our country.

In Lakshadweep, the local inhabitants are cent per cent Muslims. The majority of the people belong to "Shafi" school of Sunni sect and acknowledge besides the "Quran" the authority of "Sunnet" as customary law. Persons belonging to other religions are all temporary migrants who have come to the islands on employment. It is said that the earlier settlers of these islands were Hindus from Malabar and they were subjected to total conversion sometime in the 13th or 14th century. According to legend, they were converted into Islam by an Arab Saint Ubaidulla, popularly known as Mumbe Mullakka whose tomb can be seen in the Juma-aith Mosque at Andrott.

There were 1799 Hindus and 266 Christians during the 1981 Census in Lakshadweep. Eleven persons did not state their religion. Persons belonging to any other religion were totally

absent. Hindus and Christians who are temporary migrants are found distributed more in urban areas than in rural areas as revealed from the following table:—

Table VII.2

Distribution of population by Religion, residence and sex, Lakshadweep, 1981

Religion	Total/ Rural/ Urban	Total population		
		Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5
Muslims	Total	38,173	19,081	19,092
	Rural	21,069	10,521	10,548
	Urban	17,104	8,560	8,544
Hindus	Total	1,799	1,141	658
	Rural	486	328	158
	Urban	1,313	813	500
Christians	Total	266	147	119
	Rural	65	38	27
	Urban	201	109	92

The proportion of rural residents among the Hindus and Christians is less as compared to Muslims who have more rural and less urban residents in its population. Similarly Muslims are found distributed evenly when sex-wise data is observed, but among Christians and Hindus the male folk is more and it is much more in urban areas than rural areas.

On comparison with the 1971 percentage composition of different religions with that of 1981 in Lakshadweep it is observed that Hindus and Christians have shown a decrease of 0.39 per cent and 0.08 per cent respectively from that of 1971, whereas Muslims have made a gain of 0.47 per cent in 1981 from

that of 1971. The distribution of people of different religions in different islands of Lakshadweep are as follows:—

Table VII.3

Distribution of population by Religions in the islands, Lakshadweep, 1981

Island	Total population	Muslims	Percentage of total population	Hindus	Percentage of total population
1	2	3	4	5	6
Total	40,249	38,173	94.84	1,799	4.47
Minicoy	6,658	6,269	94.16	334	5.02
Kalpeni	3,543	3,459	97.63	82	2.31
Andrott	6,812	6,645	97.55	163	2.39
Agatti	4,111	3,992	97.10	101	2.46
Kavaratti	6,604	5,654	85.61	816	12.36
Amini	5,367	5,181	96.53	163	3.04
Kadmat	3,114	3,047	97.85	58	1.86
Kiltan	2,375	2,299	96.80	49	2.06
Chetlat	1,484	1,447	97.51	32	2.15
Bitra	181	180	99.45	1	0.55

Table VII.3—contd.

Island	Christian	Percentage of total population	Religion not stated	Percentage of total population
1	7	8	9	10
Total	266	0.66	11	0.03
Minicoy	55	0.82	..	..
Kalpeni	2	0.06	..	..
Andrott	4	0.06	..	..
Agatti	18	0.44	..	..
Kavaratti	128	1.94	6	0.09
Amini	18	0.34	5	0.09
Kadmat	9	0.29	..	..
Kiltan	27	1.14	..	..
Chetlat	5	0.34	..	..
Bitra	..	..	..	..

The entry and residence in Lakshadweep are restricted by rules and there is total ban on permanent settlement of outsiders in the Lakshadweep group of islands. Therefore, the growth of religion other than those followed by the local inhabitants have little bearing on the total population. The religion-wise data, therefore, are subjected to variations depending on the transfer and posting of Government servants and movement of their families mainly, and in a very few cases due to imported labour also. However, for a comparative study, a statement showing the trend of the growth of Hindus, Christians and Muslims of this Union Territory during the last few decades is given below:—

Table VII.4

Growth rate of major Religions through decades, 1901-81, Lakshadweep

Decade	General Population	Hindus	Christians	Muslims
1	2	3	4	5
1901-11	+ 4.85	..	..	(+) 4.85
1911-21	+ 6.31	+ 8.00	+33.33	(++) 6.34
1921-31	+17.62	+59.26	+50.00	(+)17.78
1931-41	+ 14.43	+54.55	+66.67	(+)14.05
1941-51	+14.60	+79.17	+100.00	(+)15.00
1951-61	+14.61	+1653.33	+2700.00	(+)13.18
1961-71	+31.95	+487.45	+326.79	(+)26.19
1971-81	+ 26.53	+16.44	+11.30	(+)27.16

With the formation of this Union Territory, for the socio-economic development of these islands a number of institutions and departments have come up in the islands. For want of qualified persons to man these institutions/departments some recruitments were made from the mainland and this amounts to the uncomparable growth rate of Hindus and Christians, especially during 1951-1961 decade. They were but temporary migrants. Now, the local educated native Muslims are fastly replacing the Hindus, Christians etc. from the mainland resulting in the decline of their percentage from 5.63 per cent of total population from the 1971 Census to 5.16 per cent in the 1981 Census.

CHAPTER VIII

SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

We know that from ancient times, the "Chathurvarna", the system of four *Jathis* (Castes) viz. Brahmin, Kshathriya, Vysa and Sudra was in prevalence in India among Hindu society. The word "Caste" is derived from the Spanish word "Casta" meaning breed, strain or a complex of hereditary qualities. Every caste was divided into sub-castes which were also endogamous groups and for practical purposes functioned as caste and many of them became castes in the course of time. The caste system is heirarchical determining the social status in the group. The status of an individual was determined by the social status of the group in which he was born. Nothing could alter this—neither education nor wealth.

The caste system provided for various functions necessary to the social life. Each group had not only its social status but also its particular occupation. The caste rules were given a rigid form and any breach of caste discipline was looked upon as a sin. Nobody therefore ventured to violate the rules.

People in the lower castes or lower strata in the society who were linked with the upper castes by relationship of subordination were subjected to many harassments. Many restrictions were imposed in their way of life including wearing of cloths, cooking of food, owning of shelter etc. Certain castes were considered to be untouchables by the higher castes. These castes who suffered various socio-economic and political disabilities were known as depressed classes. Dr. J. H. Hutton, the Census Commissioner of India in 1931 made an effort to list out these depressed classes systematically and this list appeared in the Government of India Act 1935 for the first time. The castes so listed out and published were subsequently known as Scheduled Castes.

During the last 30 years, especially since India attained Independence, the caste system has undergone profound modifications. The Social Reformers argued that the Caste system is the product of Hindu traditional law and it has no basis in the Religion. Education, Industries and Urbanisation removed the connection between Caste and occupation. The equal opportunity for education provided many people from all castes to rise

up in the social scale. The Untouchability Offences Act of 1955 has completely removed all legal disabilities with respect of untouchability. However, as far as a Hindu in India is concerned whether in a village or in a town, he has accepted all these changes, but he continues his life as a member of the caste group.

In addition to the Scheduled Castes, about 7.76 per cent of the total population of India are leading the tribal way of life. A tribe as defined "is a common decent living in a particular geographic area backward in technology, preliterate, loyally observing social and political customs based on kinship". Generally speaking, the original inhabitants of an area who have their own social organisations, customs, superstitions and pattern of living and who by reason of their isolation have retained their primitive characteristics are designated as tribes. According to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes List (Modification) Order 1956, there are 532 different tribes in the various States and Union Territories of India. The Government of India have taken a simple step of listing the Tribes and have called them the Scheduled Tribes. It has also taken steps to solve the various problems of these Tribes by providing the amenities of modern life and creating conditions of their systematic integration into the main stream of Indian Society. The upliftment of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is one of the directive principles of the State policy and it has been laid down in our Constitution that "the State shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people and in particular of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and shall protect them from social injustice and all form of exploitation". Articles 341 and 342 of the Constitution provide that "the President of India may by public notification specify such Castes and Tribes which shall for the purpose of the Constitution be deemed to be Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in each State". The lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are made out for each State and even in respect of State with reference to each District. A community recognised as Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe in one area may not therefore be accepted as such in another area.

With a view to collect information on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, from the 1951 Census onwards, the Census questionnaire contains items of enquiry to ascertain whether the respondent belongs to a Scheduled Caste or a Scheduled Tribe,

and if 'yes' the name of the Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe to which he belongs. The number and percentage distribution of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in different states and Union Territories of India as per 1981 Census are given below:

Table VIII.1

Percentage of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes population for the State/ Union Territory 1981

State/Union Territory	Total population	Scheduled Caste population	Percentage	Scheduled Tribe population	Percentage
1	2	3	4	5	6
INDIA	665,287,849*	104,754,623	15.75	51,628,638	7.76
1. Andhra Pradesh	53,549,673	7,961,730	14.87	3,176,001	5.93
2. Bihar	69,914,734	10,142,368	14.51	5,810,867	8.31
3. Gujarat	34,085,799	2,438,297	7.15	4,848,586	14.22
4. Haryana ^a	12,922,618	2,464,012	19.07	..	..
5. Himachal Pradesh	4,280,818	1,053,955	24.62	197,263	4.61
6. Jammu & Kashmir ^a	5,987,389	497,363	8.31	..	..
7. Karnataka	37,135,714	5,595,353	15.07	1,825,203	4.91
8. Kerala	25,453,680	2,549,382	10.02	261,475	1.03
9. Madhya Pradesh	52,178,844	7,358,533	14.10	11,987,031	22.97
10. Maharashtra	62,784,171	4,479,763	7.14	5,772,038	9.19
11. Manipur	1,470,953	17,753	1.25	387,977	27.30
12. Meghalaya	1,335,819	5,492	0.41	1,076,345	80.53
13. Nagaland ^b	774,930	..	..	650,885	83.99
14. Orissa	26,370,271	3,865,543	14.66	5,915,067	22.43
15. Punjab ^a	16,788,915	4,511,703	26.87	..	..
16. Rajasthan	34,261,862	5,838,879	17.04	4,183,124	12.21
17. Sikkim	316,385	18,281	5.78	73,623	23.27
18. Tamil Nadu	48,408,077	8,881,295	18.35	520,226	1.07
19. Tripura	2,053,038	310,384	15.12	583,920	28.44
20. Uttar Pradesh	110,862,013	23,453,339	21.16	232,705	0.21
21. West Bengal	54,580,647	12,009,768	21.99	3,070,672	5.63

Table VIII. 1—*contd.*

1	2	3	4	5	6
Union Territories					
1. Andaman & Nicobar Islands*	188,741	..	..	22,361	11.85
2. Arunachal Pradesh	631,839	2,919	0.46	441,167	69.82
3. Chandigarh ^a	451,610	63,621	14.09	..	..
4. Dadra & Nagar Haveli	103,676	2,041	1.97	81,714	78.82
5. Delhi ^a	6,220,406	1,121,643	18.03	..	..
6. Goa, Daman & Diu.	1,086,730	23,432	2.16	10,721	0.99
7. Lakshadweep†	40,249	..	..	37,760	93.82
8. Mizoram	493,757	135	0.03	461,907	93.55
9. Pondicherry ^a	604,471	96,636	15.99	..	..

*Excludes Assam

^aNo Tribe has been Scheduled by the President of India in these States/Union Territories

†No Caste has been Scheduled in these States/Union Territories.

There are about 474 individual Scheduled Castes and about 32 Scheduled Tribes in India. Thus in India we have 104,754,623 Scheduled Caste population excluding Assam, which form 15.75% of the total 1981 population. In 1981 the Scheduled Tribes work out to 7.76%. Hence, the Scheduled Castes are two fold of the Scheduled Tribes Population in India. This has been the case in 1981 Census also. When the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes combined together, there is a difference of 1.87 percentage points more in their proportion to total population in 1981 (23.51%) as compared to that of 1971 Census (21.64%). Whether it is due to the generosity of the benefits extended to Scheduled communities and better coverage during censuses or it is due to the natural increase or any other reason can be concluded only on the basis of detailed research. However, it is seen that there is an increase of 35.40 per cent in the combined population of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes during the decade 1971-81, which is 32.45 per cent and 41.80 per cent separately for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes respectively.

It is for interest to note that in Lakshadweep no castes were Scheduled by the President of India as in the case of Nagaland and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Among the States and Union Territories Punjab occupies the first place having 26.87% of Scheduled Castes to total population in 1981 followed by Himachal Pradesh (24.62%) which prevailed in 1971 Census also.

The percentage of Scheduled Caste population to total population in rural and urban areas are 17.34 and 10.63 respectively. In rural areas it is the highest in the case of Punjab where the Scheduled Caste population works out to 30.20% followed by West Bengal 26.19%. In the case of urban areas the highest Scheduled Caste population is again found in the State of Punjab with 18.19%.

One may feel that all States and Union Territories have distribution of Scheduled Tribes. But this is not correct. No Tribes were Scheduled by the President of India for Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Chandigarh, Delhi and Pondicherry. The figures reveal that the population of Scheduled Tribes to total population in India was 6.82% according to 1971 Census. It has slightly gone up to 7.76% in 1981. The Union Territory of Lakshadweep holds the unique position in the Indian Union that it has the highest percentage of Scheduled Tribe population among all the States and Union Territories taken together. Thus, it has 93.82% tribal population. Among States, Nagaland occupies the first place having 83.99% followed by Meghalaya 80.58%. Among Union Territories, the proportion is quite high in the case of Arunachal Pradesh (69.82%), Dadra and Nagar Haveli (78.82%) and Mizoram (93.55%) which are predominantly populated by tribal population. While considering the rural-urban distribution the percentage of Scheduled Tribe population to total population in rural area is 9.54% and in urban area 2.03%. In this aspect, Lakshadweep has the highest of 96.61%, followed by Mizoram (95.02%), Nagaland (89.70%) and Meghalaya (86.13%). In the case of urban area also the highest percentage is again found in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep with 90.57%, followed by Mizoram (89.05%). Thus, in both rural and urban areas the Scheduled Tribes of Lakshadweep maintains a very high majority which is naturally due to the reason that the original island population contained only the Scheduled Tribe Muslims. When all the states are considered together the major percentage of the Scheduled Tribe population is in rural. The Union Territory is also not an exception to this.

The local inhabitants of Lakshadweep though Muslim to a man are not free from Caste system. The people who had gone there for settlement at the initial stages were Hindus from Malabar. They carried with them the caste system prevalent there at that time. Even after conversion to Islam the social stratification was continued in accordance with their occupation even though Islam does not approve such differentiation. This is a peculiarity among the Muslims in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep. The people of Lakshadweep belonged to three distinct classes; the landlords who claimed that the land belonged to them, the sailors who belonged to the ancient Merchant Navy of Kerala who took the people there for settlement and the labourers who planted coconut trees and other plants in the soil of the islands. They now continues as Koya, Maimi and Melacheri in Laccadive group and Manikfan, Thakru and Ravery in Minicoy. In Amini, the divisions are Tarwad, Tanakampuranaver, Kudiatiss and Melacheris. The people of Kadmat, Kiltan, Chetlat and Bitra are said to be all Melacheris who have migrated from Amini.

The islanders (excluding Minicoyans) are ethnically of the same stock as the mainlanders and their social organisation in essentials follows the same pattern as that prevailing amongst the Muslims on the mainland. However, these islands were noted for their isolation and backwardness even during the British period. The Scheduled District Act (XIV of 1884) was extended to Laccadive islands in 1889, on the grounds of administrative expediency to suit the requirements of these backward population. Later to take the inhabitants to the stage of equality or near equality with the population on the mainland they themselves were considered as Scheduled Tribes. According to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes List (Modification) Order 1956, the inhabitants of Lakshadweep, who and both of whose parents were born in these islands are treated as Scheduled Tribes.

The Scheduled Tribe population in Lakshadweep as per 1981 Census is 37,760 which constitute 93.82 per cent of the total population. Since the inhabitants of all the islands themselves have been treated as Scheduled Tribes, the distribution of Scheduled Tribes population naturally will be even in each island irrespective of their rural/urban characteristics. In other words the classification of the island has no bearing in the distribution of Scheduled Tribes in the rural or urban areas. However, since certain islands have been classified as urban, we can say that 96.61 per cent of the population in the rural islands

and 90.57 per cent of the population in the urban islands are Scheduled Tribes. The island-wise distribution of Scheduled Tribe population is given below:

Table VIII.2

Distribution of Scheduled Tribes by Islands, Lakshadweep. 1981

Union Territory/Island	Scheduled Tribes		
	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4
Lakshadweep			
Total	37,760	18,865	18,895
Rural	20,887	10,420	10,467
Urban	16,873	8,445	8,428
Rural Islands			
Kalpeni	3,442	1,770	1,672
Andrott	6,574	3,153	3,421
Agatti	3,968	2,053	1,915
Kadmat	3,027	1,522	1,505
Kiltan	2,278	1,136	1,142
Chetlat	1,418	686	732
Bitra	180	100	80
Urban Islands			
Minicoy	6,145	2,786	3,359
Kavaratti	5,585	3,031	2,554
Amini	5,143	2,628	2,515

The growth of Scheduled Tribes in this Union Territory also depends on the growth of local population mainly. The non-Scheduled Tribes constitute mainly (1) the people born to the father or mother of mainland origin and (2) those who had gone there on employment. However, for a comparative study the percentage distribution of Scheduled Tribes in different islands during 1971 and 1981 and their corresponding growth

rate during the decade are given below. During 1971 the entire area was treated as rural.

Table VIII.3

Percentage distribution of Scheduled Tribe in Islands, 1971-1981

Name of Union Territory/Island	Scheduled Tribes, 1971 Census	Scheduled Tribes, 1981 Census	Decadal growth 1971-81
1	2	3	4
LAKSHADWEEP	92.86	93.82	27.83
Minicoy	89.91	92.29	27.94
Kalpeni	95.43	97.15	14.43
Andrott	95.45	96.51	26.96
Agatti	96.96	96.52	29.72
Kavaratti	82.56	84.57	53.06
Amini	95.05	95.83	19.13
Kadmat	95.36	97.21	31.38
Kiltan	95.94	95.92	16.05
Chetlat	95.58	95.55	23.63
Bitra	100.00	99.45	60.71

The sex ratio for India for 1981 among Scheduled Tribe is 983 females for 1000 males. In Lakshadweep the sex ratio is favourable to female i.e. 1002 females per 1000 males. Meghalaya, Orissa, Arunachal Pradesh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli also maintain high sex ratio. The lowest sex ratio works out to 915 for Uttar Pradesh. The Rural sex ratio for Scheduled Tribes in Lakshadweep is 1005 and for urban it is 998. The corresponding all India sex ratio is 988 for rural and 912 for urban area. In general the urban sex ratio is low in majority of the states since it may contain more male migration. The sex ratio among the main workers is generally on the lower side. When the all India sex ratio for main workers comes to 489. Manipur has the highest with 942. Lakshadweep has the lowest sex ratio with 168 female workers for 1000 male workers.

In the general sex ratio of Lakshadweep we have seen that during the last two decades, male population was more than that of females. It was worked out as 975 females for every 1000 males. The main reason attributed to this was shifting of headquarters of Lakshadweep to the islands and transfer of more officials from mainland to the islands and induction of more labourers for developmental activities in the islands. When we take the sex ratio separately for Scheduled Tribes which constitute the local inhabitants, it presents a different picture. Female population is more in the Union Territory level which comes to 1007 for every 1000 persons. The islands of Minicoy, Andrott, Kiltan and Chetlat also show a much higher trend. The island-wise sex ratio of the Scheduled Tribes is given below:

Table VIII. 4

Sex ratio of Scheduled Tribe in Islands, 1981

Union Territory/Island	Sex ratio
1	2
Lakshadweep	1002
Minicoy	1206
Kalpeni	945
Andrott	1085
Agatti	933
Kavaratti	843
Amini	957
Kadmat	989
Kiltan	1005
Chetlat	1167
Bitra	800

The literacy rate among Scheduled Tribes in India works out to 16.35%. When different States and Union Territories are considered, Lakshadweep holds the second position with 53.13%, the first rank being held by Mizoram with 59.63%. The same trend is maintained in the case of rural areas. But in rural areas/literate males of Lakshadweep hold the highest position all over India with 61.21% literacy. While working out the percentage of literates, the whole Scheduled Tribe population inclusive of 0-4 age group, has been taken into account.

The literacy rate among Scheduled Tribes in different islands are shown below:—

Table VIII.5
Literacy among Scheduled Tribes in Islands, 1981

Union Territory/Island Rural Urban	Literacy rate among Scheduled Tribes		
	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4
Lakshadweep			
Total	53.13	63.34	42.92
Rural	51.00	61.21	40.83
Urban	55.76	65.98	45.51
Rural Islands			
Kalpeni	55.08	66.44	43.06
Andrott	47.55	60.23	35.93
Agatti	53.93	63.61	43.53
Kadmat	55.34	63.21	47.38
Kiltan	45.83	54.75	36.95
Chetlat	48.31	52.62	44.26
Bitra	46.67	52.00	40.00
Urban Islands			
Minicoy	63.55	69.20	58.86
Kavaratti	55.17	66.81	41.35
Amini	47.09	61.61	31.93

As mentioned elsewhere, this Union Territory maintains a high literacy rate of 55.07 per cent and out of the total population 93.82 per cent are Scheduled Tribes. Among the Scheduled Tribes, 53.13 per cent are literates. Thus, it is an admitted fact that the Scheduled Tribe in Lakshadweep are fast growing in all walks of life, thanks to the implementation of intensive developmental programmes by the Government.



Plate 15—Coir twisting—A traditional occupation



Plate 16—Making cement blocks for construction



Plate 17—Breaking coconut for making copra—Behind is a pile of coconut husk



Plate 18—Kernal being separated from shells



Plate 19—Bait cage—cane or bamboo frame work floating in the sea keeps
the bait fish alive

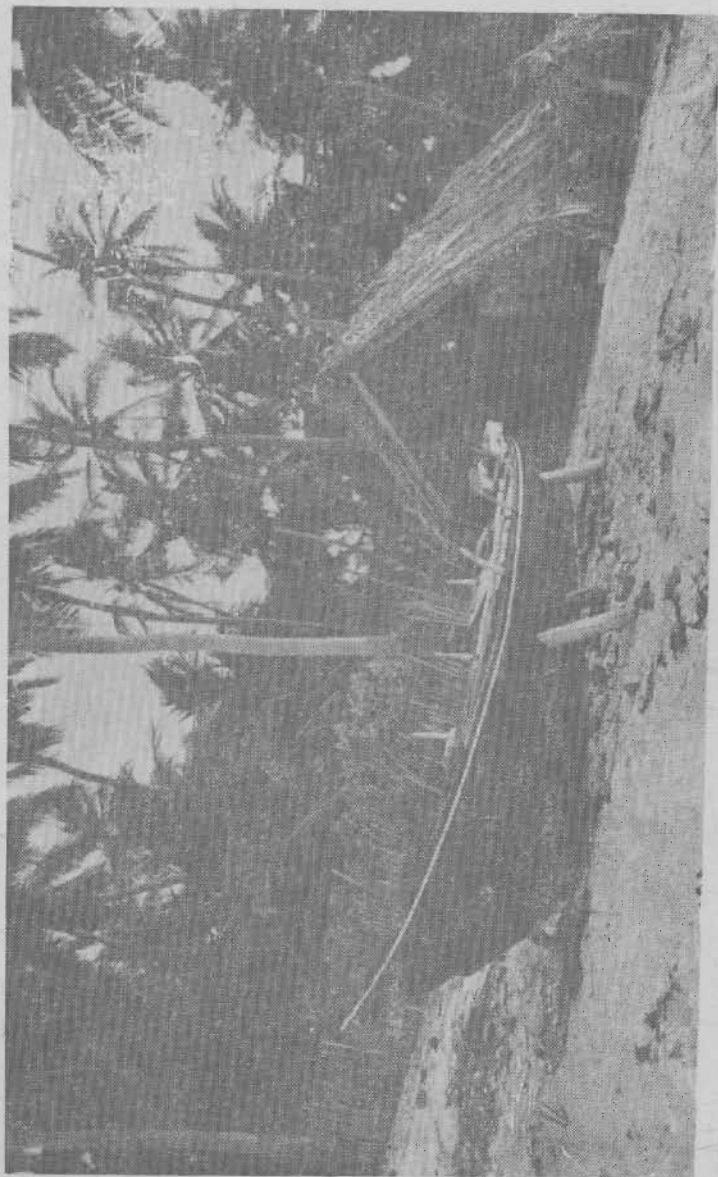


Plate 20—A medium size odam used for fishing



Plate 21—Lagoon fishing using Tharappam



Plate 22—Fish caught by spikes



Plate 23—Tuna processing

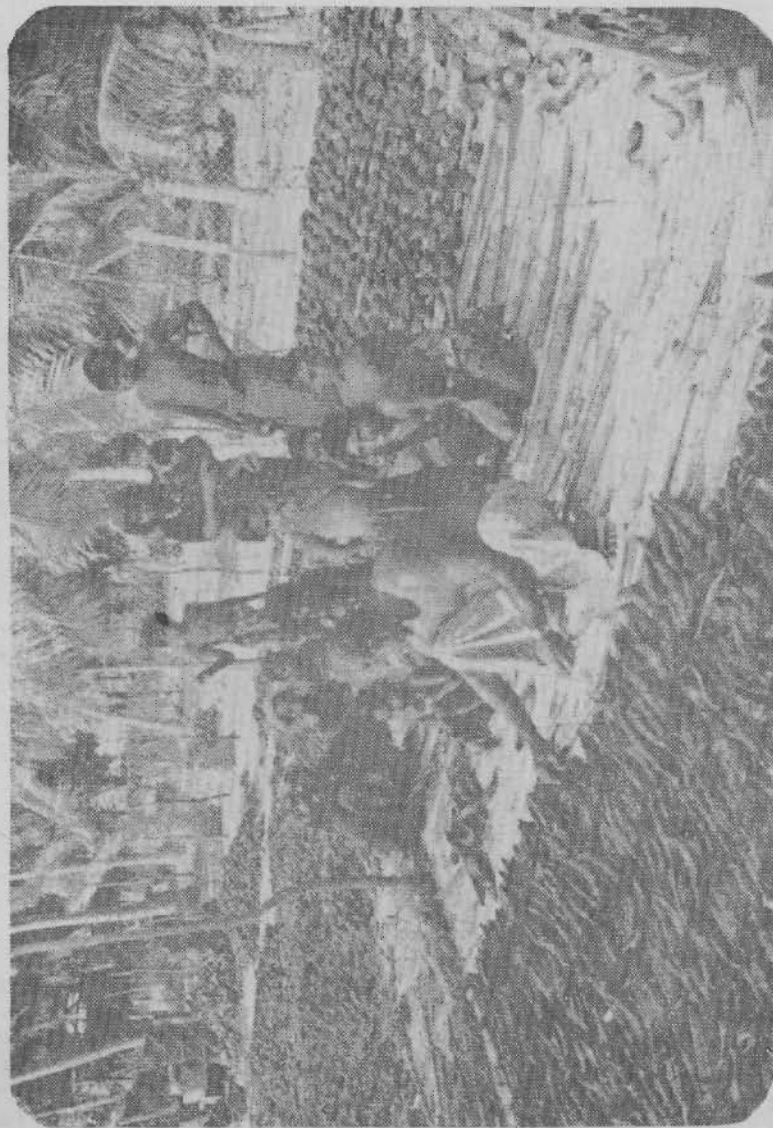


Plate 24—Drying boiled tuna fish for Mas

CHAPTER IX

HOW MANY OF US WORK?

India is a peasant country and the cultivation and agricultural labour coupled with household industry form a major part of the occupation of our people. A sizeable portion of our population are engaged in other works as factory workers, plantation workers, Government servants, businessmen etc. They altogether form the work force and build up the economy. The economic development of the country depends on the activities of the people and therefore, collection of information on the economic activities of the people is one of the important aspects of Indian Census. The data collected are used for social and economic planning which is very important in respect of our country, where the problems of unemployment and under-employment are very acute. Dividing into three broad categories viz., main workers, marginal workers and non-workers, in 1981 Census also we have collected the information on the economic activities of the people of India. The work has been defined as participation in any economically productive activity either physical or mental in nature. Work involves not only actual work but also effective supervision and direction of work. The definition and concept of workers were the same as in 1971, but the criterion for classification of worker was slightly changed. In the 1981 Census, those who had worked for six months (183 days) or more in the preceding year were classified as 'main workers' and those who had worked for a lesser period as 'marginal workers'. Those who had not participated in any work during the year were treated as 'non-workers'. The student community, the dependent children, the old and invalid and the womenfolk engaged in their household duties came in the category of 'non-workers'. The reference period was one year preceding the date of enumeration.

The main workers were further classified into four categories such as 'cultivators', 'agricultural labourers', 'workers engaged in household industries' and 'other workers' in accordance with the work done by them. The 'cultivation' involved ploughing, sowing and harvesting and production of cereals and millet crops such as wheat, paddy, jowar, bajra, ragi etc. and the crops such as sugarcane, ground-nuts, tapioca etc. and pulses, raw jute and kindred fibre crop, cotton etc. The agricultural labourers were those who work in another person's land for wage in money, kind or share. However cultivators and agricultural labourers were

classified as such on the basis of the crops grown and only growing of the following crops were considered as 'cultivation'.

- (i) Cereal and millet crops : Paddy, wheat, jowar, bajra, maize, ragi, barley, gram etc.
- (ii) Pulses : Arhar, moong, masur, urd, khesari etc.
- (iii) Fibre crops : Raw cotton, jute, mesta, sunhemp, and kindred fibre crops.
- (iv) Oil seeds : Sesamum, ground-nut, rape, mustard, linseed, castor etc.
- (v) Cash crops : Sugarcane.

The growing of the following crops have not been considered as cultivation :

- (i) Plantation crops : Tea, coffee, rubber, tobacco, pepper, cardamom etc.
- (ii) Edible nuts (other than ground-nuts) : Walnut, almond, cashewnut.
- (iii) Fruits : Bananas, apples, grapes, mangoes, oranges etc.
- (iv) Coconut
- (v) Ganja, cinchona, opium and medicinal plants
- (vi) Betal nut (areca)
- (vii) Flowers
- (viii) Roots and tubers, chillies and spices (other than pepper and cardamom).
- (ix) Vegetables
- (x) Other crops not specifically included under cultivation.

A household industry was defined as an industry conducted by the head of the household and or by the members of the household at home or within the village in rural areas and only within the precincts of the house where the household lives in the urban area. The industry should not be run on the scale of a registered factory. The main criterion of a household industry was the participation of one or more members of the household. The household industry related to production, processing, servicing or repair of the articles or goods such as handloom weaving, dyeing, carpentry, bidi rolling, pottery manufacture, bicycle repairing, blacksmithy, tailoring etc.

All those who were engaged in activities other than cultivation, agricultural labour and household industries were classified as 'other workers' and included factory workers, plantation workers, those engaged in business, trade, commerce, transport, mining, construction, political or social work, all government servants, municipal employees, teachers, priests, entertainment artists etc. For the purposes of tabulation, 'other workers' were further classified into six other categories. Thus, the Census data on workers are altogether available for nine industrial categories. They are:

- (i) Cultivators
- (ii) Agricultural Labourers
- (iii) Livestock, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting, and Plantations, Orchards and allied activities.
- (iv) Mining and quarrying
- (v) Manufacturing, Processing, Servicing and Repairs
 - (a) Household industry
 - (b) Other than Household industry.
- (vi) Construction
- (vii) Trade and Commerce
- (viii) Transport, storage and communications
- (ix) Others

In India the percentage of main workers to the total population was 33.45% according to 1981 Census (excluding Assam where the Census could not be held). It is 34.76 per cent in respect of rural areas and 29.23 per cent in respect of urban areas. The following table shows the percentage of main workers to the total population in India and in various States and Union Territories according to 1971 and 1981 Censuses.

Table IX. 1

Percentage of main workers to the total population

Sl. No.	Country/State/ Union Territory	1971 Census			1981 Census		
		P	M	F	P	M	F
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
INDIA*		33.06	52.61	12.06	33.45	51.62	13.99
1.	Andhra Pradesh	41.39	53.22	24.16	42.26	57.12	27.02
2.	Bihar	31.03	52.16	8.88	29.68	49.19	9.06
3.	Gujarat	31.45	51.24	10.26	32.22	52.19	11.03

Table 1X. 1—*contd.*

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4.	Haryana . .	26.44	47.27	2.41	28.35	48.94	4.69
5.	Himachal Pradesh	36.95	52.43	20.79	34.36	49.59	18.71
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	29.76	52.50	3.86	30.37	52.20	5.91
7.	Karnataka . .	34.74	54.40	14.20	36.76	53.90	18.95
8.	Kerala . .	29.12	45.00	13.49	26.68	41.04	12.77
9.	Madhya Pradesh .	36.72	53.74	18.65	38.41	53.52	22.35
10.	Maharashtra .	36.48	52.09	19.70	38.71	52.51	23.98
11.	Manipur . .	34.57	45.31	23.62	40.35	45.94	34.59
12.	Meghalaya .	44.17	53.21	34.57	43.44	53.12	33.29
13.	Nagaland . .	50.75	55.55	45.24	47.53	51.91	42.45
14.	Orissa . .	31.22	55.32	6.81	32.75	54.38	10.70
15.	Punjab . .	28.87	52.82	1.18	29.35	53.14	2.27
16.	Rajasthan . .	31.24	52.09	8.34	30.48	49.92	9.32
17.	Sikkim . .	53.18	62.96	41.85	46.60	56.55	34.69
18.	Tamilnadu .	35.78	56.02	15.09	39.30	55.85	22.36
19.	Tripura . .	27.79	19.43	4.83	29.64	49.23	8.95
20.	Uttar Pradesh .	30.94	52.24	6.71	29.22	50.31	5.39
21.	West Bengal .	27.91	48.83	4.43	28.26	48.71	5.81
Union Territories							
22.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands .	39.55	62.10	4.53	33.21	54.59	5.07
23.	Arunachal Pradesh	57.65	63.14	51.28	49.61	57.42	40.55
24.	Chandigarh .	33.29	53.96	5.70	34.69	54.50	8.93
25.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli . . .	47.17	55.43	38.96	40.81	55.11	26.14
26.	Delhi . .	30.21	50.61	4.75	31.93	52.47	6.52
27.	Goa, Daman & Diu	31.67	47.76	15.40	30.59	45.85	15.05
28.	Lakshadweep .	26.15	38.43	13.60	19.75	33.56	5.58
29.	Mizoram . .	45.61	51.43	39.46	41.73	50.38	32.33
30.	Pondicherry .	29.90	48.65	10.94	28.66	46.02	11.03

*Excludes Assam

In Lakshadweep, out of 40,249 total population, 19.75 per cent are main workers, 4.64 per cent marginal workers and 75.61 per cent non-workers.

Table IX. 2

Workers and Non-workers, Lakshadweep, 1981

Sl. No.	Total/ Rural/ Urban	Population			Main workers		
		Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1. Total	.	40,249	20,377	19,872	7,947	6,839	1,108
2. Percentage	.	100.00	100.00	100.00	19.75	33.56	5.58
3. Rural	.	21,620	10,887	10,733	4,083	3,400	683
4. Percentage	.	100.00	100.00	100.00	18.89	31.23	6.36
5. Urban	.	18,629	9,490	9,139	3,864	3,439	425
6. Percentage	.	100.00	100.00	100.00	20.74	36.24	4.65

Table IX. 2—contd.

Sl. No.	Total/ Rural/ Urban	Marginal workers			Non-workers		
		Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	9	10	11	12	13	14
1. Total	.	1,869	1,157	712	30,433	12,381	18,052
2. Percentage	.	4.64	5.68	3.58	75.61	60.76	90.84
3. Rural	.	1,376	847	529	16,161	6,640	9,521
4. Percentage	.	6.36	7.78	4.93	74.75	60.99	88.71
5. Urban	.	493	310	183	14,272	5,741	8,531
6. Percentage	.	2.65	3.26	2.00	76.61	60.50	93.35

The percentage of main workers has come down from 26.15 in 1971 to 19.75 in 1981. If we consider the all-India situation, the work participation has not shown any marked variation but remained at about 33 per cent itself. Thus, the percentage of main workers in Lakshadweep is already less by 6.91% than all India in 1971 and has come down again by 13.70% in 1981. Are the Islanders getting lazy? Will this trend continue further? Or is it due to any other reason? Even in the sex-wise participation it is noticed that while in 1981 there is a fall of 4.87% among males

from 38.43% in 1971 and 8.02 per cent from 13.60% among females in Lakshadweep, a decline of only 0.99% in male and increase of 1.93 per cent among females is noticed from that of 1971 in all India level. Thus, the fall in the female participation has affected very much the total participation of work in the 1981 Census.

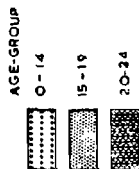
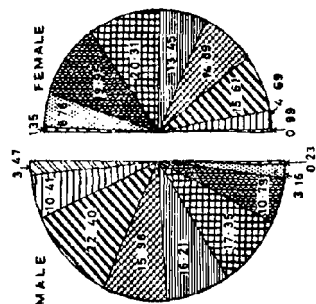
The total work force of 1981 may be considered as being made up of main workers and marginal workers. The "workers" and "non-workers" with secondary work of the 1971 Census could be compared with both the main and marginal workers of 1981 Census. Thus the combined work participation for India in 1981 was 36.8% as against 36.1% in 1971. The female participation has increased to 19.76% in 1981 from 14.15% in 1971. For Lakshadweep the earlier rate which was 35.03 per cent abruptly came down to 24.39 per cent which has been caused more due to the fall in rate from 29.49% of 1971 to 9.16% of 1981 in respect of females than due to fall of 1.21% in respect of males.

The Industrial classification of main workers reveal that when India is predominantly an agricultural country having more than 66% workers in Agricultural sector and less than 4% in Household Industry and the remaining 'Other workers', in Lakshadweep Union Territory there are absolutely no cultivators and agricultural labourers in 1981 as per the Primary Census Abstract. The Household Industry and 'other workers' constitute the chunk of main workers. The percentage of Household Industry workers came down from 30.09% in 1971 to 13.69% in 1981. Thus in 1981 the other workers have increased considerably from 69.86 in 1971 to 86.31% in 1981 due to the shift from the category of Household Industry. When the workers alone is considered, among 7,947 workers, 86.06 per cent are males and 13.94 per cent females. The workers according to industrial category reveal that among males the maximum of 29.43% of the total workers are in category IX 'Other services' followed by 21.87% in Category III Livestock, fishing, plantation, etc., 9.60% in Category VIII Transport, Storage and Communication, etc. Among female workers the maximum of 6.73% of the total workers are in Category

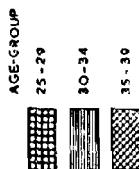
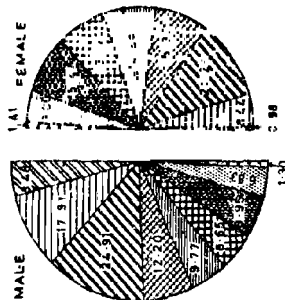
LAKSHADWEEP

MAIN, MARGINAL AND NON-WORKERS CLASSIFIED BY AGE-GROUP AND SEX 1981

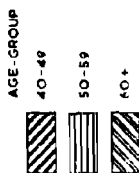
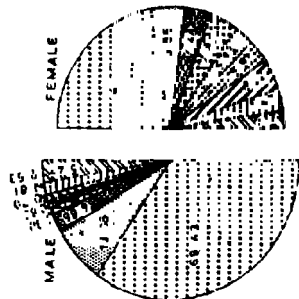
MAIN WORKERS



MARGINAL WORKERS



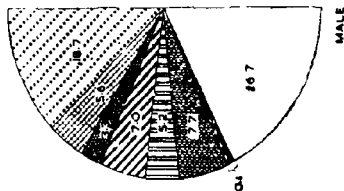
NON-WORKERS



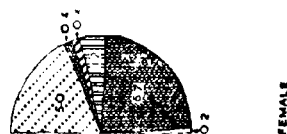
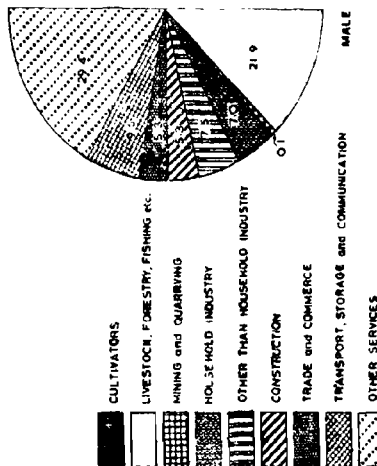
WORKERS ACCORDING TO MAIN ACTIVITY BY INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION AND SEX

(in per cent to total workers)

1971



1981



NOTE: Data against females on Livestock, Forestry, Fishing etc. for 1971 and Transport, Storage and Communication for 1981 are negligible

V (a) 'Household Industry' followed by 4.98% in Category IX 'other services'. The remaining 2.23% of female workers are in categories other than Category I, II and IV.

Table IX.3

Percentage of workers in Industrial category by sex, Lakshadweep, 1981

Category	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4
Total main workers	7,947	6,839	1,108
Percentage	100.00	86.06	13.94
I Cultivators	..	..	..
II Agricultural Labourers	..	..	..
III Livestock, forestry, fishing etc.	22.12	21.87	0.25
IV Mining & Quarrying	0.06	0.06	0.00
V (a) Household Industry	13.69	6.96	6.73
(b) Other than Household Industry	8.63	7.46	1.17
VI Construction	5.73	5.35	0.39
VII Trade & Commerce	5.71	5.32	0.39
VIII Transport, storage, etc.	9.65	9.60	0.05
IX Other services	34.41	29.43	4.98

The Island-wise distribution of workers available only by four broad industrial categories reveals that there is more participation of woman workers in 1981 in categories other than V(a) and I & II than 1971.

Table IX.4

Percentage distribution of Main-workers in different Islands, 1971-1981

Sl. No.	Union Territory/ District/Tahsil/ Island	Total main workers Category (I-IX)					
		1971			1981		
		Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
LAKSHADWEEP							
UNION TERRITORY/							
DISTRICT							
		100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
I	Minicoy Tahsil	15.60	15.62	15.57	13.92	14.45	10.65
1.	Minicoy (NMT)	15.60	15.62	15.57	13.92	14.45	10.65

Table IX. 4—*contd.*

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
II	Andrott Tahsil .	25.49	24.50	28.33	19.61	21.13	10.65
2.	Kalpeni .	12.47	10.26	18.84	7.15	7.55	4.69
3.	Andrott .	13.02	14.24	9.49	12.52	13.58	5.96
III	Kavaratti Tahsil .	26.69	26.91	26.04	39.48	38.66	44.58
4.	Agatti .	13.98	11.42	21.37	16.47	13.91	32.31
5.	Kavaratti (NMT)	12.71	15.49	4.67	23.01	24.75	12.27
IV	Amini Tahsil .	32.22	32.97	30.06	26.93	25.76	34.12
6.	Amini (NMT)	13.02	11.01	18.84	11.69	11.08	15.43
7.	Kadmat .	6.46	8.42	0.81	7.45	6.30	14.53
8.	Kiltan .	7.49	7.91	6.26	3.67	3.93	2.08
9.	Chetlat .	4.53	5.00	3.18	3.39	3.66	1.72
10.	Bitra .	0.72	0.63	0.98	0.73	0.79	0.36

NMT--Non-Municipal Town.

In 1981 Kavaratti island ranks first among all the islands with 23.01% workers followed by Agatti (16.47%) and Minicoy (13.92%). In the earlier decade Minicoy stood first with 15.60% followed by Agatti (13.98%), Andrott (13.02%) and Amini (13.02%). Kavaratti is the headquarters of island Administration and hosts a number of Departments and supporting staff which has improved its strength of workers from 12.71% of the last decade. Thus Kavaratti has 22.46% of "other workers" among all categories of workers put together. Next comes Minicoy and Andrott islands with 13.79% and 12.12% respectively. In Household Industry Agatti island leads all other islands with 9.07% workers with the highest women participation of 27.98% among total female workers of all categories. It is very strange to note that in 1971 all the islands had participated in Household Industry, but in 1981 it increased percentage only in Agatti and Kadmat and decreased in other islands whereas in Chetlat and Bitra it was totally absent. In the islands of Kalpeni, Andrott and Kiltan only women folk are not practising the Household Industry. Thus, Lakshadweep has more or less left the main activity of cultivation and Agriculture due to shortage of Agricultural land in 1971 itself and is found trying to skip away from the Household Industry in 1981. This trend indicates that due to their improvement in education and attraction to white collar jobs there is shift of workers to the tertiary sector. Thus, the islanders are contended with the income from coconut kernels, supplemented by a Government job.

The latter bestows with it the job status, engagement or utilisation of time as well as income. Thus, a tendency to shift to the tertiary sector discarding the traditional work is very fast in the Islands. Is it good for the future? Let time reveal it.

It is noticed that the number of persons in the production of coconuts, sea fishing, manufacture of coir and coir products, etc., has decreased and persons in water transport, public services, educational services, etc., have increased. The coir industry has really met with a crisis during the last two decades. The following table gives a comparative picture of participation in selected activities during the two decades.

Table IX.5

Industrial classification of persons at work of selected activities by sex and minor groups, Lakshadweep, 1971-1981

Minor groups	Description	1971		1981	
		Males	Females	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6
017	Production of fruits and coconuts	1,475	2	533	2
060	Ocean, sea and coastal fishing	682	..	369	1
268	Manufacture of coir and coir products	643	1,773	49	179
401	Distribution of electric energy to household, industrial and commercial and other users	97	..	158	1
500	Construction and maintenance of buildings	252	4	199	17
501	Construction and maintenance of roads, ports, harbours etc.	103	..	137	6
650	Grain and grocery store-retail	136	2	152	16
710	Ocean and coastal water transport	224	..	333	1
712	Supporting services to water transport	200	..	277	2
900	Public services in the Union Government including Defence services	818	15	1,110	56

Table IX. 5—*contd.*

1	2	3	4	5	6
921	Educational services rendered by non-technical colleges, schools and other institutions	391	110	449	177
930	Health and Medical services rendered by organisations & individuals such as hospitals, dispensaries, etc.	79	25	151	47
940	Religious services by organisations or individuals	58	..	167	1

The spread of education among the island people, the developmental programmes implemented by the Government etc., have attracted people to the tertiary sector.

Now, let us examine the class of workers among the main workers. Majority of the main workers (73.67%) among males are employees followed by 16.55% single workers and 8.13% family workers. The number of employers in Lakshadweep forms only 1.64% of male workers. In contrast to this among females the percentage of employees is less (48.38%) followed by 42.69% family workers. Thus, the family worker females are more when compared to male workers. A family worker in an industry is a member of the family who works without receiving wages in cash or kind and a single worker is a person who works for himself or herself without employing others. In the household Industry 72.89% of the main workers are family workers followed by 26.47% of single workers. Both in the manufacture of food products and coir industry the family workers are more followed by single workers.

It is interesting to note the educational level of the main workers, marginal workers and non-workers. The percentage of illiterates is less among main workers as compared to the other two. The workers are found with better educational levels compared to non-workers. The percentage of matric and above among workers is more than the non-workers.

The marginal workers consists of 1,157 males and 712 females. Both among males and females the persons with household duty form the major percentage covering 74.80% of marginal

workers and the remaining form the students, persons seeking employment etc. Among males the marginal workers are found in category III (42.44%), V (b) (22.90%), V (a) (19.27%) etc., and among females in Category V (a) (85.81%), V (b) (8.01%) etc.

Table IX.6

Marginal workers and non-workers by main activity, 1981

Sl. No.	Main activity	Marginal workers		
		Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5
1. Total		1,869	1,157	712
2. Percentage		100.00	100.00	100.00
3. Full time students		4.01	4.59	3.08
4. Household duties		74.80	63.84	92.57
5. Dependents and infants		0.27	0.43	0.00
6. Retired, Rentier and persons of independent means		0.86	1.38	0.00
7. Beggars & vagrants etc.		..	..	..
8. Inmates of penal, mental and charitable institutions		..	..	..
9. Others		20.06	29.75	4.35

Table IX.6—contd.

Sl. No.	Main activity	Non-workers		
		Persons	Males	Females
1	2	6	7	8
1. Total		30,433	12,381	18,052
2. Percentage		100.00	100.00	100.00
3. Full time students		35.89	51.48	25.19
4. Household duties		32.28	8.40	48.65
5. Dependents and infants		29.59	35.69	25.41
6. Retired, Rentier and persons of independent means		0.44	0.97	0.09
7. Beggars & vagrants etc.		..	..	..
8. Inmates of penal, mental and charitable institutions		..	..	..
9. Others		1.80	3.46	0.66

The non-workers are constituted by full time students, persons of household duty and dependents and infants. The main activity of non-workers shows that among males full time students cover 51.48% of the main activity followed by 35.69% of dependents and infants. But, among females household duty (48.65%) forms the main activity followed by equal proportion of dependents and infants, and full time students of 25% each. A unique feature found in Lakshadweep Union Territory is that there are no beggars, vagrants, etc., and inmates of penal, mental and charitable institutions.

As mentioned elsewhere the Lakshadweep population consists of 93.82% of the Scheduled Tribe Muslim population who are permanent inhabitants and the remaining mainlanders who are formed of the migrant workers and their dependents. The following table gives the activity of Scheduled Tribe workers and others.

Table IX.7

Main activity of Scheduled Tribes and others by Sex, Lakshadweep, 1981

Main activity	Scheduled Tribes			Others		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Total	37,760	18,865	18,895	2,489	1,512	977
Percentage	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Main workers	17.94	30.74	5.17	47.05	68.78	13.41
Marginal workers	4.87	6.02	3.72	1.24	1.39	1.02
Non-workers	77.19	63.24	91.11	51.71	29.83	85.57

The inhabitants of Lakshadweep who and both of whose parents are born in those islands are treated as Scheduled Tribes. It shows that the main workers are only 17.94% among Scheduled Tribes as compared to 47.05 among the mainlanders. Thus the workers already described in the foregoing paragraphs relate to the Scheduled Tribe population of Lakshadweep, since the non Scheduled Tribe population is only negligible even though the workers among them are about three fold than the native Island population.

CHAPTER X

FERTILITY LEVELS AND TRENDS

The population is the strength of a Nation. If the national resources are in plenty and if it can be utilized fully, an increase in population is worthwhile. A large population supplies a large labour force. It enlarges the market for the products and thereby will enable division of labour and large scale production. But in a country like India where the resources are limited and the employment opportunities are not adequate, rapid increase of population is a threat to the economic development. India is one of the thickly populated countries in the world. Occupying the seventh position in the land area, India ranks second in population and it has to support 15 per cent of the world population. During the decade 1971-81 the size of our population has been increased by 25%. Why the population is increasing so rapidly in India? A number of reasons can be attributed to this. The warm climatic condition influences the growth of population and the girls attain the maturity at an early age. Coupled with early marriage, the child bearing commences early. The economic backwardness can be of another reason. The poorest classes are seen more fertile and they welcome any number of children since every child when grows up, is expected to be an earning member to help the family. All men and women irrespective of their physical and economic standards marry and this universality of marriage increases the population. Social backwardness appears to be the closely linked factor for the evils of over-population. Religion also plays an important role since Indian women suffer from many superstitions, beliefs and customs and are reluctant to adopt various family welfare schemes to control the births. The birth rate in India has thus become very high and at the same time, the death rate has reduced considerably with the over-all development in the field of medical and public health activities.

Most of the economic problems in India are rooted in its large population. It has caused to deteriorate the standard of living of majority of the people. By economic development people are able to get better and more food, clothing, shelter, education and medical facilities. This will raise the standard of the people. The growth of population and the economic development are closely knitted and for planning the economic development, it is imperative to study the distribution of women, their marital status,

related births, age at marriage, education level, religion etc. The above details were collected during the Censuses and compiled as 'fertility tables'.

The fertility tables were an innovation in 1971 Census. Adding certain more questions to the 1971 schedule, the data on children ever born and children surviving from each ever married woman were also collected, which are useful in estimating the cumulated fertility as well as the child mortality.

Table X.1

Ever married and Currently married women by children born to them by sex Lakshadweep, 1981

Sector	Number	Total children ever born		Births during last year
		M	F	
1	2	3	4	5
Ever married women				
T	10,286	20,330	19,042	..
R	5,478	11,590	10,789	..
U	4,808	8,760	8,253	..
Currently married women				
T	8,310	16,412	15,288	1,147
R	4,413	9,342	8,636	633
U	3,897	7,070	6,652	514

In Lakshadweep there are 10,286 ever married women of whom only 8,310 are currently married. Others have widowed, divorced or separated marital status. For the currently married women 1,147 births occurred during the year previous to 1981. The crude birth rate for rural area is 29.3, urban 27.6 and for entire Lakshadweep it is 28.5 as per the 1981 Census. The crude birth rate according to Sample Registration for the year 1981 is 29.7 which lies between the lowest birth rate of Kerala (25.6) and that of India (33.9). The highest birth rate among the states is shown by Uttar Pradesh with a rate of 39.6.

The general fertility rate is yet another measure of fertility expressed as the number of live births per 1000 women in the reproductive age group of 15-49 years. This is found to be 121.68

for rural, 111.62 for urban areas and 116.95 for all areas of Lakshadweep as per 1981 Census. The rural rates are higher than the urban rates in all States and Union Territories. As per the Sample Registration Survey it is 149.4 for rural, 107.2 for urban and 140.9 for all India. The lowest rate of 95 is observed for Kerala and the highest of 174 is with respect to Uttar Pradesh whereas the rate of Lakshadweep lies near the lowest one.

The age specific birth rates take account of the age-sex composition of population and gives the age pattern of fertility. It is seen that in Lakshadweep the fertility is relatively low in the age group 15-19 years but rises up steadily to 192.49 in the age group 25-29 years but comes down thereafter with advancement of age. The peak age group of fertility in India and in most of the states is 20-24 years. The rate for India has been worked out from sample registration data.

Table X.2

Age specific fertility rate, 1981

Age group	Lakshadweep			India		
	T	R	U	T	R	U
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
15-19	61.89	66.86	56.40	90.4	98.2	58.1
20-24	179.06	171.30	187.27	246.9	261.4	195.0
25-29	192.49	214.84	168.08	232.1	244.9	187.0
30-34	149.54	163.15	133.22	167.7	180.4	117.8
35-39	113.01	111.42	114.83	102.5	112.6	60.1
40-44	40.31	39.42	41.36	44.0	48.4	24.5
45-49	10.93	13.81	7.35	19.0	22.0	9.1

Only during the 1981 Census 3 of the major Islands were first classified as Census Towns in Lakshadweep. From the year 1983 the Rural/Urban classification of Sample Registration System units was made to select 2 rural and 3 urban sample units in this Union Territory. The following table gives the crude rates for Lakshadweep for rural areas upto the year 1982.

Table X.3

Estimated annual birth rate and death rate (Rural) from Sample Registration-1976-1982, Lakshadweep

Year	Crude birth rate	Crude death rate
1	2	3
1976	35.2	8.8
1977	30.0	8.7
1978	30.6	8.9
1979	33.3	11.2
1980	29.9	9.9
1981	29.7	8.4
1982	29.3	7.5

The estimated crude death rate for Lakshadweep for 1981 is 8.4 and for India it is found to be 12.5. Among the major states Madhya Pradesh has the highest rate with 16.0 and Kerala has the lowest rate of 6.06. In general there has been a decline in mortality in recent years and Lakshadweep is not an exception to it. The mortality varies with the age and the level of mortality during infancy is very high. The lowest infant mortality of 37 is in Kerala and the highest of 150 is in Uttar Pradesh when all the states are taken into consideration. The contribution of infant deaths to total deaths is about 30 per cent at the national level. The increase in growth rate noticed in India's population has been attributed mainly due to rapid control in mortality rates. In other words the fertility rates are now the decisive factor in population growth and population control is effected by checking women by parity.

The following table gives details of the currently married women by parity.

Table X.4

Currently married women by parity, Lakshadweep, 1981

Parity	No. of currently married women	Percentage to total
1	2	3
All	8,310	100.00
0	939	11.30

LAKSHADWEEP CRUDE BIRTH AND DEATH RATES 1976-82

(Sample Registration System)

Birth rate ——— Death rate - - - - -

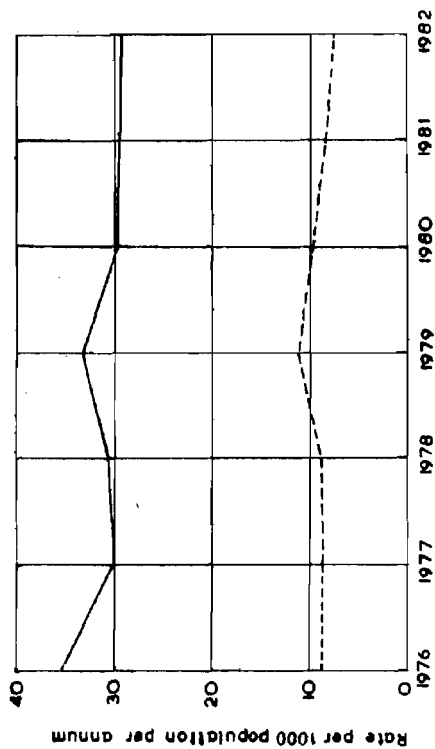


Table X.4-- *contd.*

1	2	3
1	1,035	12.46
2	1,166	14.03
3	1,098	13.21
4+	4,038	48.59
Not stated	34	0.41

Among the currently married women 11.30 per cent have not given birth so far. They include the newly wed couples and also the sterile women. Women with 1 and 2 parity together add up to 26.49 percentage of currently married women who in reproductive age group are the ideal couples to adopt the measures of family welfare. The number of women in 4+ parity comes to 48.59 percentage of currently married women. Now let us consider the currently married women by surviving children as available from the following table.

Table X.5

Currently married women by number of surviving children, Lakshadweep, 1981

Number of surviving children										Number of currently married women	Percentage to total
1										2	3
All	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	8,310	100.00
0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,090	13.12
1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,327	15.97
2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,442	17.35
3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,384	16.65
4+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3,033	36.50
Not stated	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	34	0.41

Death depletes the number of children born to a woman. The percentage of currently married women with 4+ parity which was 48.59 when considered against surviving children has been reduced to 36.50. But the same percentage is more when the currently married women with less than 4 surviving children is considered.

The average number of children ever born to the currently married women of all ages is 4.07 for rural, 3.52 for urban and 3.82 for the entire areas of Lakshadweep. Out of the total currently married women, Muslim women form 95.5% who are permanent inhabitants of Lakshadweep and hence no attempt has been made to deal more about the remaining Non-Muslims and 1.83 per cent of birth contributed by them. Obviously, the trends of fertility discussed above relate mainly to the Muslim population of Lakshadweep itself.

CHAPTER XI

MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE

Birds, animals and other living things move from place to place in their struggle for existence—maybe in search of food or to escape from the fury of weather or for the exploration of new fields of operations. Human beings also were not free from such movements in the early days of civilization. As civilization advanced they could win and over-power the nature to yield to their needs. For acquisition of wealth and political power they moved out from their habitats. These are perhaps stories of bygone days in respect of man. But for the modern man, the advancement of science and communication have made the movements less tiresome and time consuming. They move to localities where additional facilities for economic activities or opportunities for employment prevail. Such movement of people from one place to another is known as migration. In other words migration is the mobility of people from one place to another. It can be internal (within the country) or international (to or from foreign countries). In Lakshadweep, we can find only a limited migration due to factors which are peculiar to the Union Territory. Only Islanders are permitted the right of ownership of property i.e., no mainlanders are allowed to purchase land in Lakshadweep. Because of the vulnerable character of the islands in Lakshadweep, they were protected from large scale migration even during the British period. The entry by the people from other parts of India to the islands were restricted by permits to be obtained from the Collector. Even after Independence, the imposition of these restrictions continued. In 1952, the erstwhile Madras Government appointed Shri S. Y. Krishnaswamy, ICS as Special Officer to report on the condition of the islands and his report on the necessity of continuing the orders that the mainlanders had to obtain permits for travel to the islands reads as follows:—

“It will be noticed that till about 1920 the population of the islands did not show large variations. During the last 30 years however, there has been a steady increase. Today, the density is about 2000 per sq. mile. There is no vacant space available and in relation to the existing means of livelihood and a low standard of life the population has reached the saturation point. There can be no question of emigration into any of the islands. On the contrary the

recent incursion of the destitute mainlanders has given rise to serious problems of unemployment in islands like Agatti, Kadmat and Androth and is also partly responsible for the increasing incidence of petty thefts. The existing orders by which mainlanders have to obtain permits to travel to the islands is salutary and should be continued"

The tiny islands were thus protected from any serious effects of large scale migration from those days. Presently, the Lakshadweep (Restriction on Entry and Residence) Rules, 1964 made by the Administrator, Lakshadweep regulates the people from other parts of the country to Lakshadweep. The limited area of 32 km² available in all the islands is yet another impediment. Further, there has been no special attraction in the Islands like major Industrial installations, formation of township, etc. leading to an influx of people to the islands. The islands themselves are scattered in the Arabian sea far away from the mainland and the means of communication for common man now are the two ships and the *odams* or *Manjus* which are used more as cargo carriers. A journey by ship to the nearest island takes more than 12 hours. Then what types of migrants are there in the Islands? The Inter-island movement of the Islanders and the movement of the mainlanders to the islands are the main type of movements observed in Lakshadweep. The mainlanders enumerated in the Islands are those who are recruited as teachers, Government Officers, skilled and semi-skilled workers engaged in the construction and other developmental works and their families. As the islanders are getting educated and taking up the work in Administration and teaching profession they are slowly replacing the mainlanders.

Migration is an important aspect of the population study. Till 1961 migration data were presented with reference to the place of birth. In 1971 Census migration data were collected for the first time on the basis of place of last residence also in addition to birth place. The questions were : I. Birth Place (a) Place of birth, (b) Rural/Urban (c) District (d) State/Country. II. Last residence (i) (a) Place of last residence, (b) Rural/Urban, (c) District, (d) State/Country, (ii) Duration of residence at the village or town of enumeration. In 1981 Census the scope of enquiry on migration was further broadened by collecting information on "reasons for migration from place of last residence". Question on migration are arranged as Sl. Nos. 1 to 4 in sample individual slip which is to be canvassed in selected sample blocks all over the country except in all the

Union Territories and ten small States, where this slip will, however, be canvassed in all areas. In the Union Territory of Lakshadweep the sample individual slip has been canvassed in all areas along with Universal Individual slip.

While considering the information on place of birth in Lakshadweep, out of the 42,249 persons only 5,059 are migrants. In terms of percentage only 12.57% are migrants. Males account for more than 1½ fold of the female migrants. A comparison reveals that in 1971 the proportion of migrants from States in India beyond the state of enumeration formed 58.37% of migrants and it has decreased by more than 15% to 42.89% in 1981 giving more weightage to migrants elsewhere in the district of enumeration.

Table XI.1

Migrants classified by place of birth, Lakshadweep, 1981 and 1971

Sl. No.	Place of birth	1981			1971		
		Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
I	Total Migrants	5,059	3,082	1,977	3,173	2,129	1,044
	Percentage	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
II	Born elsewhere in the District of enumeration	56.67	56.39	57.11	41.44	41.71	40.90
III	State/Union Territory in India beyond the State of enumeration	42.89	42.99	42.74	58.37	58.10	58.91
IV	Other countries						
	(a) Born in countries in Asia beyond India	0.44	0.62	0.15	0.13	0.14	0.10
	(b) Unclassifiable	..	..	..	0.06	0.05	0.09

Place of last residence is another method adopted in 1981 Census also to measure the migration of the people. Altogether, there are 7,270 migrants when we consider the place of last residence which form 18.06% of total population. Among the migrants 63.26% are males and the remaining females. Similarly 52.63% of the migrants are from rural areas and the remaining from the urban areas which reveals that movement of people is slightly more from rural areas. Males hold a high percentage over females both among rural and urban migrants. Thus, 57.68% of rural and 69.47% of urban migrants are males. When we consider according to the duration of residence the percentage of migrants are more in less than 1 year group in 1971 than in 1981, but in 1-9 year duration the reverse is the case making the migrants upto 9 years at 85.87% and 88.86% in 1971 and 1981 respectively showing that the migrants during the present (1971-81) decade are more by 3% than the previous decade which definitely indicates an encouraging trend. If we take 100 migrants according to place of last residence 70.61 are from the same District, 29.17 from other States/Union

Table XI.2

Migrants classified by place of last residence and Sex, Lakshadweep, 1981

Last residence	Total Migrants ¹		
	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4
Total persons	7,270	4,599	*2,671
Percentage	100.00	100.00	100.00
A. Last residence elsewhere in India			
(i) Within the Union Territory of enumeration but outside the place of enumeration	70.61	66.99	76.83
(ii) Elsewhere in the District of Enumeration	70.61	66.99	76.83
(iii) In other Districts of the Union Territory of enumeration	..	..	..
(iv) States in India beyond the State of enumeration	29.17	32.66	23.17
B. Countries in Asia beyond India (incl. USSR)			
	0.22	0.35	..

LAKSHADWEEP

MIGRANTS BY REASONS

1981

(BY PLACE OF LAST RESIDENCE)

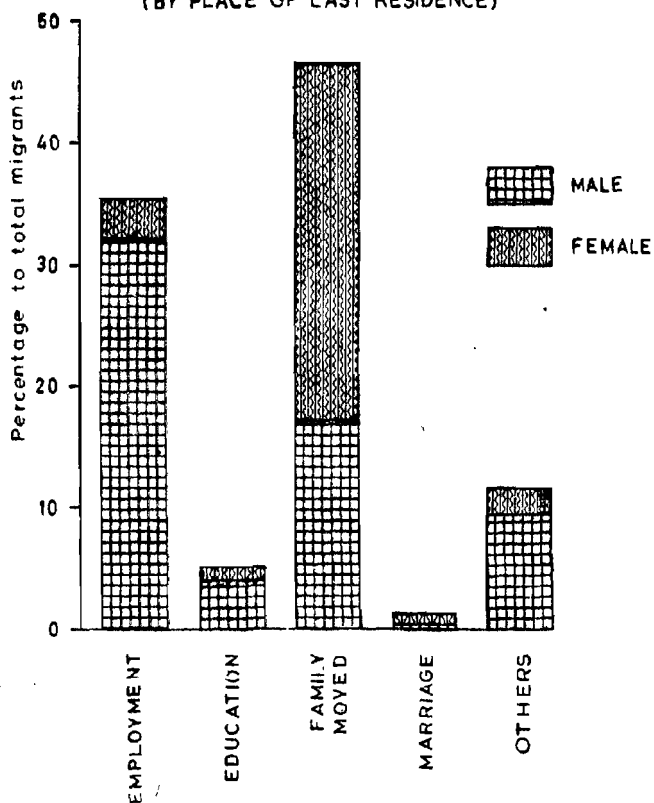


Table XI.2—*contd*

Last residence	Rural			Urban		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
1	5	6	7	8	9	10
Total persons	3,826	2,207	1,619	3,442	2,391	1,051
Percentage	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
A. Last residence elsewhere in India.						
(i) Within the Union Territory of enumeration but outside the place of enumeration	81.33	81.47	81.10	58.72	53.62	70.25
(ii) Elsewhere in the District of enumeration	81.33	81.47	81.10	58.72	53.62	70.25
(iii) In other Districts of the Union Territory of enumeration	..	..	..	..	..	..
(iv) States in India beyond the State of enumeration	18.41	18.03	18.90	41.11	46.13	29.75
B. Countries in Asia beyond India (inc. USSR)						
	0.26	0.50	..	0.17	0.25	..

Territories like Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, etc., and a very negligible of 0.22% from other countries. Thus, majority of the migrants are from within the district only. Among the states in India 72.23% are from Kerala state itself and the remaining from West Bengal, Karnataka, Maharashtra, etc.

Table XI.3

Migrants classified by place of last residence and duration of residence in place of Enumeration 1981, 1971

Year	Total migrants		Duration of residence in place of enumeration (percentage)				
	Number	Percentage	1 year	1-9	10-19	20+ years	Period not stated
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1981	7,270	100.00	29.29	59.57	5.94	4.69	0.51
1971	3,913	100.00	37.52	48.35	4.75	8.43	0.95

The Individual slip (Sample) contained question on the reasons for migration from place of last residence, which revealed that the family movement is the main reason (46.44%) for migration followed by employment (35.39%) purpose. But when the movement within the District alone is considered, though the reason remained the same, the family moved is

Table XI.4

Migrants by place of last residence and reason for migration to Lakshadweep, 1981

Sl. No.	Last Residence	Total persons	Percentage	Employment	Education	Family moved	Marriage	Others
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Total	7,270	100.00	35.39	5.10	46.43	1.32	11.76
A.	Last residence elsewhere in India	7,254	100.00	35.38	5.10	46.54	1.32	11.66
(i)	Within the Union Territory of enumeration	5,134	100.00	33.87	6.47	51.64	1.11	6.91
(ii)	Elsewhere in the District of enumeration	5,134	100.00	33.87	6.47	51.64	1.11	6.91
ii)	States/Union Territories in India beyond the Union Territory of enumeration	2,120	100.00	39.01	1.79	34.20	1.84	23.16
1.	Karnataka	102	100.00	30.39	3.92	41.18	0.98	23.53
2.	Kerala	1,532	100.00	44.19	2.15	40.41	2.28	10.97
3.	Maharashtra	181	100.00	17.68	..	1.10	..	81.22
4.	Tamilnadu	40	100.00	40.00	2.50	42.50	2.50	12.50
5.	West Bengal	133	100.00	9.77	..	..	..	90.23
6.	Andaman & Nicobar islands	43	100.00	25.58	..	46.51	2.33	25.58
7.	Others	89	100.00	52.81	..	28.09	1.12	17.98

5% more as far as the whole Union Territory trend is concerned. There are more cases of people moving to different islands to live with their husbands on getting employment in other

islands than native islands. Formerly, the islands were generally water tight compartments, but modern communication, employment opportunities and transfer of employees, etc. have made the movement more frequent and this has enabled families moving to other islands also. The movement within the district for education purpose accounts 6.47%. In general, if the migration in other states are studied, the reason of marriage holds a sizeable proportion, but till now each of major islands had a separate entity and the marriage of the people was confined to the same island or village itself and the *Murumakkathayam* ties restricted the marital ties among the relatives themselves.

The main purpose of migrants of other States and Union Territories has been observed as employment (38.99%), followed by family moved along with the breadwinner (34.18%). People also have moved to other states for continuation of education and also on getting married. 23.15% of the migrants have gone for other purposes. Among the migrants from Kerala 44.19% have gone on employment to Lakshadweep followed by 40.41% on account of the movement of family members of the above employees.

The people of Lakshadweep also move out for different purposes. Thus in Karnataka, the Mangalore port is a place generally frequented by the *Odams* or *Manjoos* for the selling of copra, mas fish, etc. and for taking the provisions, cattle for meat, cement, sand and other construction materials. The people of Minicoy make frequent visits to Bombay in Maharashtra and Calcutta in West Bengal for negotiating with the shipping companies in India and abroad to work as Seamen in ships. Even with Andaman & Nicobar Islands they are reported to have had regular contacts till second World War. In Kerala, the ports of Calicut, Bepore and Cochin are the places their *Manjoos* or *Odams* visit. The two ships now in service in Lakshadweep, generally, sail from Cochin port of Kerala State.

Thus Migration was a rare phenomenon as far as the Union Territory of Lakshadweep is concerned. But, with the advancement of communication facilities, spread of education and opening of employment avenues, the movement of people within the Union Territory is on the increase and the trend is also on for the Islanders to move to other States and Union Territories for education, employment, etc.



Plate 25—Pawan Hans—Provides helicopter service and inter-links the scattered islands of Lakshadweep to enable speedy inter-island communication

CHAPTER XII

SUMMARY

Irregularly scattered in the Arabian Sea, there lies the coral islands that constitute Lakshadweep, the smallest Union Territory in India. According to the 1981 Census, 40,249 people live in 10 inhabited islands of Lakshadweep archipelago having a geographical area of 32 sq. kms. covering the entire inhabited or uninhabited Islands/Islets. The area of inhabited islands varies from 0.1 sq. km. to 4.8 sq. kms.

Lakshadweep is a single District Union Territory. The land area being small, Lakshadweep maintains a high density of population of 1258 persons per sq. km. and it keeps the third position in this respect among all the States and Union Territories in India, the first being Delhi and the second Chandigarh. The population has been increasing all over the country and during the decade 1971-81 there has been a rise of 26.53 per cent in Lakshadweep.

All the islands are rural in character. But, because of the absence of agricultural operations as defined in the 1971 Census, coupled with high density of population three of the major islands viz., Minicoy, Kavaratti and Amini are treated as Census Towns or Urban area in 1981. Thus according to 1981 Census, 21,620 people are living in seven rural islands and 18,629 in three urban islands.

As in other States and Union Territories of the Indian Union, the females are less in number in Lakshadweep as a whole. There are only 975 females for every 1000 males here. But, in certain islands viz. Minicoy, Andrott and Chetlat the females outnumber the males. All other islands are having less females. Youth and working force of the territory form more than half of the population (53.77 per cent) and infants, children and the old aged above 60 form 46.23 per cent.

In the field of education, Lakshadweep has achieved a very substantial progress since the constitution of Islands into a Union Territory. The literacy rate which was only 15.2 per cent in 1951 has been increased to 55.1 in 1981 and Lakshadweep holds the 7th rank among all the States and Union Territories in India. The female literacy is also high

as 44.65 per cent as against the all India figure of 24.82 per cent (excluding Assam). Out of the total population, 27.4 per cent are already in educational institutions.

Malayalam is the language generally spoken in Lakshadweep, except in Minicoy which forms 84.51% to total population excluding institutional population. Minicoy is the only island where the language mainly spoken differs, where the people speak Mahl, derived mainly from the ancient Sinhalese. Nowhere in India this language is in vogue.

The local inhabitants of these islands are Muslims to a man. According to 1981 Census 94.84 per cent of the population belong to Islam. Persons belonging to other religions are only temporary migrants who have come here on account of employment and their dependents.

When we hear about Scheduled Tribes, the first impression in our mind is that they are the most backward set of people dwelling in dense forests living on hunting, collection and gathering of forest produces. But the Scheduled Tribes in Lakshadweep are a set of people who have not progressed with the march of time, insulated due to their isolation of 200-400 kms. deep in the Arabian sea for centuries. Therefore, whatever ameliorative measures are taken, the response is very fast. Thus in the field of education, when the literacy rate of Scheduled Tribes for the country is 16.35% with 24.52% for males and 8.04% for females, the literacy rate of Scheduled Tribes in Lakshadweep is 53.13% with 63.34% for males and 42.92% for females which is really a prestigious achievement. 93.82 per cent of the people of these islands are Scheduled Tribes. Considering the rural/urban population, it is 96.61 per cent for rural and 90.57 for urban islands. The people of mainland origin who have come to the islands on employment etc. constitute the non-Scheduled Tribe population of these islands. No caste has been Scheduled in respect of Lakshadweep.

Coming to the economic activities, out of the total population of Lakshadweep 7,947 are classified as 'main workers', 1869 as 'marginal workers' and 30,433 as 'non-workers' as per 1981 Census. The percentage of main workers to total population in Lakshadweep has come down from 26.15 of 1971 to 19.75% in 1981, when the percentage of main workers in India remained at about 33 per cent itself. It has also been noticed that the fall in the female participation has affected very

much the total participation of work in 1981 in Lakshadweep. Will their decline in participation rate have any impact that cause apprehension to the economy of the territory? According to the Primary Census Abstract there are no 'cultivators' or 'agricultural labourers' in this Union Territory as defined in the Census in 1981. A downward trend is noticed in the number and percentage of persons engaged in the hereditary work of production of coconuts, deep sea fishing etc., as a whole and persons engaged in water transport, public services, educational services etc. have increased very well. Manufacture of coir and coir products was once the most popular Household industry in Lakshadweep and most of the women were engaged in this. The Coir Monopoly Scheme was imposed in this Union Territory in the mid eighteenth century. This is a welfare scheme and is worked on barter system of exchanging coir for rice at a commuted rate, fixed from time to time. But, it is found that this industry is losing its grounds in the soil of the islands. During 1981 there were only 49 male and 179 female main workers in this category as against 643 males and 1773 females in 1971.

Thus Lakshadweep has more or less left the main activity of cultivation and agriculture due to shortage of land in 1971 itself and is found to skip away from the Household Industry in 1981 to the tertiary sector. This tendency of shifting to the tertiary sector discarding the traditional work is fast emerging in the islands. Is it good for the future of the economy?

"Marginal workers" are mainly people engaged in household duties (74.80 per cent). The non-workers include full time students (35.89 per cent), persons on household duties (32.28 per cent) and dependents and infants (29.59 per cent). There are no beggars and vagrants in this Union Territory so also inmates of penal, mental and charitable institutions.

The growth of population mainly depended on the fertility of the people. In 1981, there were 10,286 ever married women and 8,310 currently married women in Lakshadweep. For the currently married women 1,147 births occurred during the year previous to 1981 Census. The crude birth rate for entire Lakshadweep is 28.5 as per 1981 Census. The number of live births per 1000 women in the reproductive age group of 15-49 years is 116.95 for Lakshadweep as a whole. The estimated crude death rate for 1981 is 8.4.

After the islands became a Union Territory, for its socio-economic development different departments were formed. At the initial stages for want of qualified persons from the islands for manning these departments, Teachers, Office staff etc. and labourers, both skilled and semi-skilled, were recruited from mainland. Thus a number of persons from mainland happened to come here on account of employment. Similarly, with the improvement of surface communication facilities, inter-island traffic of people also increased. These two types of movements of people are mainly available in Lakshadweep. There are 5,059 persons in total in islands (3,082 males and 1,977 females) who have been classified as migrants by place of birth according to 1981 Census. Migrants classified by place of last residence are 7,270 (4,599 males and 2,671 females). The main reasons for migration recorded was family movement and employment and 46.44 per cent and 35.39 per cent of the total migrants belong to the above two categories respectively.

It is worthwhile to think about the future population of the country as well as our Union Territory. The Expert Committee on population projection has estimated that the population of India (including Assam) will increase from 685.2 million in 1981 to 837.2 million by 1991 and 986.1 million by the year 2001 respectively. Among other factors, the projection assumes that the Expectation of life at birth of 54.1 years for males and 54.7 years for females in 1980 for India, would increase to 62.8 years and 64.2 years respectively by the quinquennium 1996-2001. In the case of Lakshadweep the Committee estimates that the population will increase from 40,249 in 1981 to 46,900 by 1991 and further to 50,800 by 1996 and 55,100 by 2001. The next population Census will take place in 1991. While there are many constraints in making a population projection, the real count by the Census will give a comprehensive and elaborate account of the individuals with different aspects covered for our Union Territory as well as our country.

ERRATA

<i>Item</i>	<i>For</i>	<i>Read</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
Page (v), against plate 9 to 14	After page 51	After page 52
Page 9, table II.5, col. 1	Lakshadweep District	Lakshadweep District £
Page 16, table II.10, col. 2, line 8	548,159,622	548,159,652
Page 22, line	distinguishing	distinguishing
Page 45, table V-8, col. 1, line 2	4	0-4
Page 47, table V.9, heading	Completed	Completed
Page 48, para 1, line 3	data of 1981 reveals that out of 11,046 children of the age	in our country as well. Therefore all the children at the age
Page 54, table VII.1, col. 1	0	10
Page 62, para 1, line 2	32	532
Page 62, para 1, line 4	orm	form
Page 62, para 1, line 7	1981	1971
Page 65, last para, line 4	origin	origin
Page 84, 1st para, line 15	women by parity	the fertility
Page 89, last para, line 2	42, 249	40, 249